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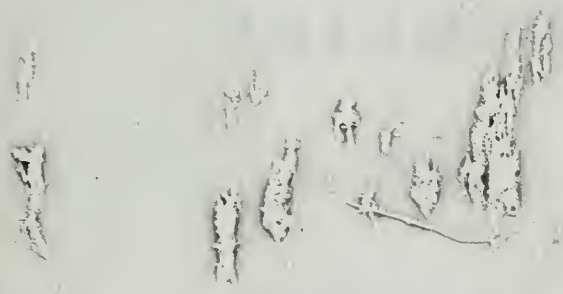

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THE

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OF

JANETTA;

A TALE, ALAS! TOO TRUE!

GAINSBOROUGH:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR BY HENRY MOZLEY.

1812.

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PREFACE.

AT a very advanced period of life, and reduced from a situation which in the early stages of my existence offered the brightest prospects of future welfare, to a state, alas! of the extremest poverty, the solicitations of many valuable friends, to whom I am under the greatest obligations, alone could have induced me to retrace those events which have terminated in so hapless a vicissitude of fortune. Before I enter on this painful task of retrospection, I would fain claim the indulgence of my readers, by giving them some idea of the disadvantages under which I labour in (what had my situation been more suitable, would to me have proved) an arduous undertaking. A garret has not unfrequently sheltered the writer of

a work which has met the approbation of a candid public; but in the wretched inhabitant of the still more wretched receptacle of *parish poor*, the ready pen of authorship cannot be expected when I avow myself that unfortunate being; if the critic feels disposed to censure, he will pass me by as too insignificant to notice; and the heart of humanity will breathe a sigh for the sorrows of one who acknowledges her inability to recount them in a style calculated to amuse the readers of the present age.

When I consider that I should many years since have dreaded the idea of my writings being placed before public inspection, I tremble at my own temerity, and am tempted to resign the task, hopeless of success; but again, the idea that in this happy land the warm feelings of charity are almost universally bestowed and exercised, emboldens me to pursue my design; and humbly hoping for the lenity of my readers, I send forth the story of my woes. The feelings of a truly grateful heart prompt me here

to offer my thanks for the innumerable favours which have been conferred on me by the inhabitants of Brigg (my present residence); by their joint bounty I have been fed, clothed, comforted! to particularize the names of my inestimable friends, would to many of them be an offence, and since all have in their hearts a happy consciousness of having alleviated the distress of the afflicted, which will point my thanks to themselves, by all it will be deemed unnecessary; that they may enjoy blessings in this world, and in the next meet with a reward above all price, is the unceasing prayer of,

their greatly obliged

humble servant,

JANETTA N—.

JANETTA;

A TALE, ALAS, TOO TRUE!

MY Father, whose name was Scott, at the time of my birth was a wealthy merchant, resident in the Island of Madeira. I was at that period his only child: and the sole information I ever obtained relative to my mother, was, that when my eyes opened on this busy scene hers closed for ever. When I was a year old, my father determined to send me to England, under the care of Admiral Byng, who was appointed by him as my guardian, until he should revisit his native clime. The Honourable Mrs. Stukely and Lady Masters, sisters to the Admiral, and both widows without children, kindly

received the little stranger under their roof, engaged a confidential woman to attend on me as a nurse, and provided every comfort for me with even maternal tenderness. The profession of my poor guardian did not allow him to pass much time at his sisters', but in his occasional visits, I well remember many instances of fondness lavished on his little Janetta, as he used to call me; oh, happy days of careless infancy! how often have I looked back to them with vain regret, which only added to the present misery.

When I was five years old, my father arrived in England, he appeared at that time much pleased with me; but from my earliest recollection of him, I have rather feared than loved him; he was extremely violent in his temper, and too haughty in his manners to conciliate the affection of a child; the chief portion of my regard towards him, was obtained by many costly presents for my dress; for scarcely at my early age could I be better pleased with finery than he was. His visit to England was but of short duration,

and he informed my dear mamma, (as I was permitted to call Mrs. Stukely) that on his arrival in Madeira, his brother Walter would sail for this country, and as he proposed to reside here, would, when he came, relieve Admiral Byng from the trouble of his young charge. Mrs. S. kindly hoped that he would not rob her of her little companion, which he professed it was far from his intention to do, so long as she found the care of me not attended with inconvenience to herself; with many thanks for her past attentions, he took leave of us to return to Madeira.

On his safe arrival, he sent Mrs. Stukely a handsome present of wine and sweetmeats, accompanied by a letter, in which he requested that Janetta might early begin her education in one of the principal schools in the Metropolis, or its neighbourhood, and be taught every requisite accomplishment for his daughter. My mother immediately consulted her friend, Lady Bute, on the plan to be adopted for my education, which was

soon determined to the satisfaction of all parties: it was agreed that I should accompany her daughter, Lady Caroline Stewart, to Mrs. Tomlinson's school, which was only a few miles from London: she had many boarders of distinction, and was in high repute. We were soon conveyed there by Lady Bute and my revered mother, and to the years passed under the roof of my respectable governess, I look back as the happiest moments of my life. School adventures are seldom attended with much interest, nor can mine boast of any, except the commencement of a most sincere friendship between Lady Caroline and myself, which for many years produced the chief charm of my life. I had been three years at school when my uncle Walter arrived from Madeira. I was sent for to be introduced to him, and on my arrival in Grosvenor-square, was welcomed by my dear Mrs. Stukely, with maternal kindness: and received by my uncle with many expressions of tenderness and pleasure. His manners were totally different from those of my fa-

ther, and a short acquaintance enabled me to discover that their dispositions bore as little resemblance. My ever-lamented guardian, Admiral Byng, gave us the meeting to deliver up his charge, and at the same time took leave of us previous to his expedition to Minorca; fatal expedition! at this distant period my heart bleeds at the recollection of those sufferings it eventually occasioned to all who loved him. My uncle informed us he had lately married the widow of Captain Sutherland; she was a most amiable woman, and had a very large fortune, and that as soon as they were settled I must be introduced to her. Accordingly, Mrs. Stukely and Lady Masters accompanied me on an early visit to my new aunt, they were not strangers to each other during Captain Sutherland's life, and each were ready to renew the acquaintance. My uncle had taken a house at Mile-end Green, which was very pleasantly situated, and as it was a little distance from town, preferred by Mrs. Scott on account of her son's health, which was very delicate: he was her only child by Cap-

tain Sutherland. The day of my introduction to her, was to me a day of delight; pleased with my dress, which was as splendid as if I had been a princess; pleased with my ride, and with the cordial reception I met with from my aunt, I was as happy as youth, health, and a careless heart could make me. After she had promised to return our visit as early as she could, we repaired to Lord Bute's, as Lady Caroline (who had returned from school with me) was to accompany us to Lady Amherst's, where we were going to spend the day. Our holidays were to be prolonged until my aunt had returned our visit, which she did in a few days; she brought me many handsome presents: if these were intended to bribe my affections, they were very unnecessary, as her every action possessed a charm which soon gained for her the love of all who had the happiness to know her, whether young or old.

When I had attained the age of fourteen, Caroline and I took leave of our Governess, having completed our education: that is,

we had acquired every accomplishment necessary for fine ladies, who were to be introduced to the gay world of fashion. Lady Bute herself came to fetch us: anxious to see my beloved mamma, I requested her to set me down in Grosvenor-square, which she did, desiring to see me in Pall-Mall as soon as I could be spared. The next day I was conveyed to Mile-end Green, there to meet my father, who had just arrived in England. When I entered the room, he did not recollect me: at our parting I was merely a child, I had now become a tall young woman. If, gentle reader, you are a female, in whose heart glow all the warm impulses of filial affection, imagine if you can the cold chill I experienced, when instead of being tenderly folded to the paternal bosom, after so long an absence, I was received with all the formal hauteur of an eastern monarch! As well as my feelings (which made my voice falter) would permit, I welcomed him home, and ventured to hope he was come to reside here. He answered, "Not at present;" and as he

seemed so little communicative, I was fearful to ask how long he proposed to continue abroad, lest he should deem me impertinent, and bid me be silent. To my great relief, my aunt shortly joined us, and entered into conversation with him on indifferent subjects.

This interview afforded me but little prospect of future happiness, since I found the company of a third person necessary to render me comfortable in the presence of my father; the presentiments of that day have been but too fully verified in my subsequent life. He was so very tyrannical, and withal so hasty, that though I dreaded to displease, I was seldom, if ever, quite right. If offended, his impetuosity generally broke forth in violent imprecations, which terrified as much as they disgusted me: whilst the pride with which he invariably treated me when alone, effectually prevented that confidential intercourse which ought ever to subsist between parent and child. Indeed we have been together for three hours without inter-

ruption, and his share of the conversation has not extended beyond a monosyllable, apparently fearful of lessening his dignity by conversing with a female who was only —his own daughter. How often, during our stay at my uncle's, have I wished myself in Grosvenor-square, or him in Madeira: at the same time deeply regretting, that I did not feel that respect, or affection, which I was conscious I ought to feel for a father. He was most passionately fond of dress, and spared no expense in the decoration of his own person or mine; and many a time have I drawn down his vengeance upon me, by my inattention to the *particularities* of my toilet. One morning in particular, having overslept myself, breakfast was announced before I had made my appearance; unwilling to keep the party waiting, I hastened down, omitting to put on my hoop, (French hoops were then worn in undress); before I had time to pay my morning compliments, with a tremendous oath, and a countenance that looked me into terror, he demanded, "Why I had not come down

in my night-cap?" and protested I should not sit in the same room with him until my dress was completed. Happy to quit the room, I lost no time in obeying his orders, and on my re-entrance had the pleasure to find the storm abated.

My father being desirous that my introduction to the world should take place before he again quitted England, determined to give a ball: the management of which, he requested my aunt to undertake; she readily consented, and it may easily be imagined I was not slow in communicating my gratitude for so great an indulgence. Dancing was my favourite amusement, and my heart beat high with anticipated delight. The only injunction I received from my father, was, if I wished to avoid his displeasure, to observe some elegance in my dress, and whatever addition to my wardrobe was necessary, he should request my aunt to procure for me; he then left me to prepare for the levee at St. James's; and by way of setting me an example of taste and elegance,

I imagine, when attired, came into the room where my aunt and I were sitting. He certainly was not an old man; and yet his dress struck me as too gay for him, he really looked superb, being habited in green, with a profusion of gold lace, and embroidery, and a diamond sword-knot. As he entered his carriage, my aunt said, "Janetta, I beg you will contrive to be fine enough to please papa at this grand ball, and as a little consultation will be necessary, pray write a card of invitation to Lady Caroline immediately, and say I will call on Lady Bute to-morrow, and shall hope to bring her back with me." I was overjoyed at this plan, as I had seldom been absent from my amiable friend since we first went to school, and every day of separation seemed an age; my aunt never forgot the minutest trifle that could contribute to the comfort of those around her, as an instance of which, she ordered Agnes (my own maid) not to attend me until after my usual hour of rising, as she thought a long morning before Caroline's arrival would appear tedious to me. Alas! the indulgencies of

my early life but ill fitted me to sustain the misfortunes of my more advanced age. My father returned from the levee to dinner, and my aunt, to my extreme satisfaction, brought with her my dear friend and her sister, Lady Mary, and increased my pleasure by informing me that, Lady Bute and Mrs. Stukely would spend the next day with us, when all the preliminaries of the important event were to be settled. As she had, on her way to Pall-Mall, summoned a host of tradesmen to attend in the evening for our orders, and the topic of dress completely engrossed our conversation during the dinner. My father appeared quite satisfied with my choice of a pink silk dress, trimmed with silver fringe and tassels, and to reward my taste, presented me with a pair of diamond ear-rings, and a solitaire, saying, "Here are some baubles for you." Lady Caroline ordered a suit of blond lace, with a petticoat of white satin and silver fringe, and after strict charges to the milliner and dress-maker to complete our orders in time, they were dismissed.

The next day our party was chosen, and the cards of invitation dispatched. We had a charming ball-room adjoining the drawing-room, which was allotted to the elderly ladies for cards: the decorations all did credit to my aunt's taste. And now arrived the important Thursday, on which I was to make my debût before the great world; we took an early family dinner, that the business of the toilet might be uninterrupted; in those days the decoration of the head was a serious undertaking; but notwithstanding the attendance of Monsieur Friseur, we had completed our equipment at seven o'clock, and descended to the drawing-room, where we found papa ready to receive us. A silent bow from him was a sure indication of pleasure, and after having viewed us very attentively, we received this mark of his approbation; he condescended to admire an aigrette which ornamented my head, and had been presented to me by Lady Masters. His own dress was particularly elegant, of blue and gold; and his waistcoat white satin embroidered with gold and spangles.

Company now began to arrive, which put an end to my impatience; to particularize those to whom I was introduced on this occasion would be even more tedious to my readers, than troublesome to myself; suffice it to mention those who afterwards continued my most intimate acquaintances, of these were Lady Bute, her two daughters, my revered Mrs. Stukely, Lady Masters, Lord Minto, Sir James Lowther, Sir George Pocock, and Mr. William Erskine. Lord Bute and Doctor Blair were too much engaged with their respective pupils, (the former being tutor to his present Majesty, the latter to the Duke of York) to attend our party; this was the only alloy to the first agreeable evening I ever spent in the company of my father. During the remaining part of his stay in England, he hurried us from one public place to another, so that I early became initiated in all the gay dissipations of high life. He was highly pleased with my fortunate selection of Lady Caroline as my friend; there was indeed much congeniality in our dispositions, though I possessed infinitely greater vivacity

than she did; her constitution was delicate, and such spirits as mine would have been too much for her tender frame to support, yet it was this difference she professed most to admire in her sometimes volatile friend. Never happy in any company which separated us from each other, her indulgent parents, and my equally kind mother, seldom permitted us to be divided, so that she shared with me all the amusements planned by my father.

At a concert in Soho, where we had been delighted by the joint efforts of Frasi and Tenducci, he introduced two Creoles of distinction to us, young gentlemen of the name of Shrier, who had been sent to England for their education: they were both highly accomplished, and of such pleasant manners, that a very short conversation served to make us forget they were Mulattos. They readily accepted my father's invitation to pass the next day with us at Mile-End, and as the engagement promised us a day of rest, I heard it made with pleasure, for I began

to fear Caroline's health would suffer from our bad hours. As my aunt had not accompanied us to the concert, and it was the first time I had heard the celebrated singers who attended there, I repeated to her all the pleasure I had experienced. "I am not surprised at your delight, Janetta," she answered; and, turning to my father, said, "I assure you, Mr. Scott, she has an excellent voice herself." "Indeed," he replied, "then we can have a little concert at home to-morrow evening, for I have invited George and William Shrier, two of the swarthy tribe, to dine with us: George I know excels on the German flute, and his brother plays the violin extremely well; so that with your harpsichord, Lady Caroline's guitar, and Janetta for our vocal performer, we shall have quite a snug musical party." My uncle said he should be extremely happy to see the Shriers, as he knew and respected them very much. My father's arrangement for the concert having met with the approbation of the party, we retired to rest; but before Caroline and I separated for the night,

I asked her what emotion she felt in company with men of another colour? She answered, "If all men were as agreeable as those we have seen to-night, their personal appearance would be little attended to;" and then expatiated upon their genteel address and courteous manners, until I exclaimed, "Why, really you will become a Desdemona before to-morrow night; but beware of an Othello, the wealth of Peru would not make amends for a jealous husband."

The next morning my father set off for town, and purposed to call at Mr. Moffat's for the Shriers: he therefore took the coach, that they might more conveniently convey their musical instruments, and as the day was fine, we paid a visit to some sick and helpless women, who were called Sutherland's pensioners by my aunt: they were supplied weekly with such articles of food and raiment, as were most requisite. We were delighted with our new employment, for it was only ours when Sutherland was at school; when at home, the pleasing task

of relieving their sufferings was all his own: he was a boy of very weak constitution, but sweet temper, and uncommonly engaging manners. We arrived at home just in time to receive our guests; on my father's inquiry of, "How have you spent your morning?" being answered, he exclaimed with a great oath, that he would make us perform quarantine; but this, with a handsome compliment to us, was opposed by George Shrier. My father said, "Had not Sir James Lowther been engaged, he intended to have brought him home, but that Doctor Blair had begged to know if he might be admitted to share our evening's amusement?" "Oh, by all means," said Lady Caroline; I eagerly exclaimed, "No one could be more welcome, he is one of my greatest favourites." My father called me "Giddy girl," and bade me not avow my love with so much energy for one so much older than myself. At that time I was almost as unconscious as he was of the reason which particularly attached me to the worthy Doctor. When the cloth was removed, on being asked how he liked

England, George Shrier said, "So well, that we wish much to be allowed to reside here entirely." "Since then you like the country so well," said my father, "should you be obliged to quit it, perhaps you would wish one of its fair inhabitants to return with you." "I could not possibly have an objection," he replied, "but my native clime has given me so deep a dye, I have not the vanity to suppose any English lady would make me so happy, unless she were actuated by mercenary motives, which would not be quite so pleasant." Lady Caroline said, "The woman who, in selecting a partner for life, chooses either with a view of aggrandizing herself, or merely for a handsome person, without regard to mental qualifications, certainly deserves the disappointment she is in general doomed to experience." "Bravo!" said my uncle, "well, Janetta, what have you to say?" "Oh, Sir, her ladyship has fully expressed my opinion." Very shortly after we had retired the young men left my father and uncle to a tête-à-ête, and joined us in the li-

brary, which, though small, was well chosen: William amused us for some time by reading some papers from the Spectator; and as we had still some time on our hands, before the commencement of our concert, they requested we would introduce them to the pensioners we had visited in the morning; we readily consented, they inquired of some of them if they were happy? and were answered, that though infirm, and out of health, their kind benefactors did not suffer them to want any comfort in their power to bestow, and they must be discontented indeed to be otherwise than happy. This grateful answer, and the cleanliness of their little habitations, so pleased their new acquaintances, that they left a moidore amongst them, which secured for them the esteem of both Caroline and myself.

On our return we found the Doctor, and very soon proceeded to the music-room; our amusement began with a solo on the violin by young Shrier; I was then commanded by papa to sing the favourite air of

"Let me wander not unseen." I was indebted to George Shrier's masterly accompaniment on the flute, for much of the applause I received. Lady C. was then requested to sing the admired duet of, "Contented all day." I was under the necessity of being her Damon, as all the gentlemen declined singing, and her sweet soft voice formed a most pleasing contrast to my stronger pipe. I sang several Scotch songs, as they were Doctor Blair's favourites, and with my aunt's excellent performance on the harpsichord, our concert passed off with great eclat; and in high spirits we sat down to partake of a cold collation.

"Why, Janetta," said the Doctor, "you are quite in fine voice to-night, I never heard you sing better." "Oh, very well indeed," said my father, "they are both good girls:" happy, indeed, did this first avowal of his approbation make me, for though he was continually forming schemes of pleasure for us, he never addressed me with any

degree of tenderness, and seldom without an oath. Before we retired, the whole party agreed to meet the following evening at the theatre, to be present at the representation of Douglas; the Royal Family were to be there, which prevented the Doctor's going with us, as he must attend his pupil. In the morning, my aunt requested us to call on Lady Bute and Mrs. Stukely, and prevail on them to join our party in the evening; we joyfully accepted the commission, and ordered the chariot first to Pall-Mall; Lady Bute was delighted to see Caroline in such excellent spirits, after her late dissipation, as she had been much afraid for her health. "Indeed, Madam, I take care that she does not exceed the bounds of prudence, therefore the merit"—"Is all your own, my dear Janetta, and you shall have it with my thanks," returned her ladyship. Caroline wished my father had been present, to witness her mother's kind behaviour to me, and receive a lesson of parental affection; she promised to accompany us to the theatre, but insisted that we should bring our party

to take tea with her, and desired us to request Mrs. Stukely would do the same."

We were both affectionately embraced by my dear mother, who said, she could not deny our request; and to render her own welcome more secure, would bring with her a beau, whose name, however, she would not mention, that our surprise might be the more agreeable; but promised to introduce him before we left Mile-End for Pall-Mall. When we met before dinner, my father presented me with a gold repeating watch, "I thought you had occasion for a monitor, Janetta; when it reminds you of mispent time do not consider it impertinent, but make a proper use of the warning." The admonition was a kind one, and received by me with a pleasure equal to that I felt in accepting the present. My aunt promised to repay him with a gift far more valuable. We could not prevail on my uncle to go with us to the theatre: after dinner, we amused ourselves by conjecturing who Mrs. Stukely would introduce, and waited her arrival

with some degree of impatience. "I suppose," said my father, "should it prove some old gouty citizen, now, you would be quite disappointed." "On the contrary," said Caroline, "I should be quite delighted to leave Mr. Walter so good a companion for a hit at backgammon." At that moment the carriage stopped, but instead of the hobbling cit, out jumped a smart naval officer. He had no sooner entered the room, than I flew into his arms with all a sister's affection; Caroline gave him an equally warm reception: "Zounds!" exclaimed my father, "the girls are Hottentots, and will eat the poor fellow up." Indeed the pleasure we felt at sight of Captain Somerset, (who, like myself, had been under Mrs. Stukely's care from infancy, and as we were nearly of an age, nursed by the same person) entirely drove from our recollection the number of years that had elapsed since we saw him, nor did we give ourselves time to reflect on the construction our behaviour would bear. Mrs. Stukely had indeed afforded us a most agreeable surprise, for

in all our guesses, we never fixed on Somerset; he said he only arrived in town the night before, and was happy in paying his first visit to his youthful play-fellows.

We took our coffee in Pall-Mall according to agreement, and with light hearts proceeded to the theatre: who could fail to be delighted when the Royal Family were present, Mrs. Cibber performing Lady Randolph, and Garrick young Norval? Between the acts, Lord Bute and Doctor Blair came to welcome the Captain, and congratulate him on his safe arrival. Our evening's amusement was shortened by a truly tragical event; one of the centinels placed near the King's box, towards the conclusion of the play, dropt down in an apoplectic fit, and every effort to restore him to life proved ineffectual. His Majesty immediately ordered the performance to cease, and the house to be cleared. We returned home, much affected by this awful catastrophe: we went to see the mimic scene of woe, and returned to image to ourselves the real distress of

this unhappy being's family. Lord Bute and Doctor Blair joined us at supper, his Lordship's time was so much engrossed by his Royal pupil, that he had seldom much time to spend with his family, his presence therefore was considered by the whole party as a treat; but, to my great mortification, he brought an invitation for Caroline and me from Lady Effingham and Miss Talbot, to spend a week with them; as Miss T. was going to leave England by the first ship that sailed for the West Indies; but as my father proposed quitting us at the same time, it was impossible for me to accompany my friend.

Certainly I had not experienced much tenderness from my parent, and yet the idea of being separated so far, and perhaps for ever, frequently depressed my spirits: on his future intentions he never deigned to converse with me; I sometimes imagined that had he not intended soon to return, and take up his residence in England, he might have wished me to accompany him to Ma-

deira; but I had but too much reason to fear that even the profuse generosity he lavished on me, was rather from a wish of ostentatious display, than from affection towards me; be that as it might, I ever wished to pay him the duty of a child. I therefore returned to Mile-End, and left Caroline to set off for Howard Grove the next morning, after having obtained her promise to return to me in a few days.

As my aunt wished to present my father with a full length portrait of his Janetta, she took me the next day to Miss Reed's, who was at that time an eminent artist, and after passing an hour of purgatory (for to be still was ever so to me) we set off for Harrow, accompanied by my father and Somerset, to fetch Sutherland from school. The following day was passed at home with our new friends the Shriers, Somerset, and two Misses Elliot, who made a pleasing addition to our usual circle; they had been educated in France, and were highly accomplished young women, the daughters of Captain E.

whose depraved conduct rendered them very unfortunate ones; a man of the most elegant manners, he fascinated in every company where his real character was unknown; at home alone was he seen in his true colours: guilty of every extravagance and criminal excess, he treated his amiable wife and family with the utmost cruelty, and but for their own exertions to support themselves by the use of their needle, they would frequently have been reduced to absolute want; and regardless of example he too often introduced to their society men of the most abandoned morals.

George Shrier in the course of the evening told me our acquaintance, Miss Edminston, had the day previous given her fair hand to his Majesty the King of Corsica, the ceremony took place in the Fleet, where he had been confined for some time; but as he had obtained his liberation, the Royal pair were immediately to set off for their own kingdom. "Doubtless, Janetta," he con-

cluded, "they will have a grand triumphal entry, should you not like to be present?" My father, without ceremony, pronounced her a great fool, my aunt imagined it was a step her father did not approve, and Somerset declared he was not surprised, for she was made up of ignorance and pride; we then dismissed her Corsican Majesty as an object neither worthy our pity nor envy. The conversation then turned on France, and the Misses Elliot gave us many amusing anecdotes of their convent; Miss A. said, "Though many of the nuns were very pleasing companions, such a life could never by her be deemed a happy one, but her sister she believed would gladly have remained a recluse could she have obtained her parents' consent." "We are much indebted to their influence," said Shrier, "this little island cannot afford to be robbed of its ornaments only to grace the dismal cells of a convent." Somerset and Miss Elliot being both singers, we finished our evening very pleasantly in the music room. Lady Caroline's stay at Howard Grove having exceeded her pro-

mised term of absence some days, my father's impatience for her return knew no bounds, and I began to fear indisposition had prevented her performing her promise. I therefore requested the Captain to take my uncle's chariot and prevail on her to accept his escort to Mile-End; he readily accepted the office, and, charged with a long letter from me, in which I entreated her to return, and receiving my father's absolute commands to bring her at all events, he departed. During his absence we amused ourselves with cards, when, in the midst of a deal, which to real whist players would have been interesting, my father with one of his sudden starts vociferated, "Zounds! I forgot to tell John not to bring that devil Miss Prim with them!" at that moment the chariot drove up the avenue and his fears of the precise Miss Talbot's presence were soon relieved, by discovering that his favourite Lady Caroline alone accompanied the Captain.

She soon made her peace for her lengthen-

d stay, and accounted for it by saying, that on the day of her intended return Lady Amherst had called at the Grove and insisted on their going home with her, and (Lord Amherst being at that time just appointed Governor of Santa Cruz) as she had but a short period to remain in England, without rudeness she could not but comply. "I assure you, Janetta," she proceeded, "her ladyship is quite anxious to take you out with her, and intends to propose it to Mr. Scott before he leaves you. I told her it would be in vain to think of separating you from me, she must therefore, if she prevailed on you to accompany her, submit to be incumbered with me also: but even this did not tempt her to relinquish her design; she thought we should make a very agreeable trio. As she expected a select, though rather large, party on the following day, we were induced to remain with her. Sir James Macdonald, and his intended bride, that boisterously noisy Miss Douglas, were of the party. I am sure it will be a great relief to the ears of her English acquaintances when

he takes her into Scotland. The two pretty Misses Davidson from Edinburgh were also there, I found them very sensible pleasing young women; and as they were not fonder of the card-table than myself, we passed our evening in sociable chat. Doctor Armstrong, Doctor Smollet, and his wife and mother, joined the party in time for cards, to which they are devoted; the younger lady is from Barbadoes, a most eccentric being, who turns night into day; if her countrywomen all resemble her, it is pity they should not stay at home: and now, my dear Janetta, I hope this very amusing account has disarmed all your anger; and as I have now come to the end of my story, pray what do you think of a voyage to Santa Cruz?" "Why, my dear girl, as you are become papa's oracle, without your approbation the scheme will not meet with his: I shall not therefore make myself melancholy with ideas of quitting this dear little island." Our chat was here interrupted by my father, who loudly complained of my engrossing Caroline: the conversation then became

general: being asked her opinion of Miss Talbot, she told us she was not one of whose company she should frequently be desirous; in the first place, her conversation was not very edifying; add to which she was extremely formal, and possessed of a vast deal of what she called dignity! My father's face bespoke a stormy speech, when Doctor Blair was announced.

The worthy divine's countenance, to me at least, betokened important intelligence, and it was not deceitful; he came to communicate news from his brother William, who informed him that he shortly hoped to embark for England; that they had gained a complete victory, after many hardships; but to meet their friends would be a rich reward for all their toils; he gave a melancholy account of the dreadful sufferings (of which he partook) of those unhappy beings cooped up in the Black-hole at Calcutta. The joy I felt at a prospect of once more beholding Blair, was too sincere to be concealed; I freely expressed it, and when I heard

the account of his sufferings, fervently hoped he would not again expose himself to the like by entering another engagement. "Would you then have him refuse his country's call, and be deemed a coward, because he has endured a few hardships?" asked the Doctor, "surely Janetta, you would not wish to see him thus degraded: to bear afflictions with patience and fortitude is worthy of honour, and will doubtless meet with reward." "If that were always the case," said Lady Caroline, "I would be content; but to my knowledge, many men of great merit remain unnoticed, whilst those of inferior qualifications are promoted above them." "No doubt that is too frequently the case," replied he; "for deserving men are sometimes too timid, or too proud, to solicit when opportunity occurs; but they have still a consolation, which those who obtain riches, place, or power, in a dishonourable manner can never know, I mean a good conscience." "And that I fear," said my aunt, "is not the companion of the present commander in India; for the con-

temptation of his prodigious wealth must bring with it a feeling of remorse, in the recollection of the cruel plunder by which it has been amassed." "The man who aggrandizes himself by such unlawful means deserves to be shot!" this speech of my father closed the subject; for if any thing was mentioned which he disapproved, his sentiments were too violently expressed for the continuance of the conversation to give pleasure to any one.

The Doctor was then invited to give his opinion of my picture, (which had that day been sent home.) "It is," he said, "a very good likeness, and extremely well executed; consequently without fault; may the original ever resemble it!" "That she will never do," said papa, obligingly enough. "Pray, Mr. Scott, may I ask how long you have been a conjuror?" inquired Caroline, with an arch smile on her countenance; "Why, your Ladyship must allow she has at present many faults, and they too generally increase with our age." "I presume," re-

turned she, " you speak from your own experience, the latter part of your speech is therefore unanswerable." This sally was too severe to have been ventured by any other of the party, but she was so great a favourite she ever escaped with impunity.

As soon as Doctor Blair took his leave, Caroline and I retired; that in a tête-à-tête we might converse on his intelligence: I became acquainted with his brother at the early age of thirteen, and so long as he remained in England, experienced from him those attentions most calculated to win upon the susceptible heart of a young and lively girl; and though his professions had never exceeded those of friendship, yet during his absence in India, his remembrance had been cherished by me, in the midst of all the gaiety to which I had been introduced, as the most pleasurable sensation my heart was capable of feeling. I laid awake to think, and slept but to dream, of Blair; and was aroused in the morning by Somerset's tap at my door, who told me my father was impatient

to go into the city, and in no very gentle mood at being kept waiting for breakfast.

This generally sociable meal dispatched, Caroline, Somerset, and I, escorted by Sutherland on a beautiful poney, which had lately been presented to him by my father, paid a visit to his pensioners. However trifling the mention of these uninteresting particulars may appear to the readers of these simple memoirs, I can assure them that no part of my life affords to me a more satisfactory retrospect, than the little portion of it spared from fashionable dissipation, and idle chit-chat, to devote to these charitable visits: and the remembrance of a poor woman's blessing for the relief bestowed, imparts even at this distant period a warmer glow of pleasure to my heart, than it ever experienced at the moment of receiving a high-flown compliment from the most dignified personage in a ball-room.

We returned home just in time to receive our beloved mothers, Mrs. Stukely and Lady

Bute, who were to pass the day with us; and as papa returned unaccompanied from town, we hoped to enjoy their society without interruption. I inquired if Lady Mary Stewart was still at Sir James Lowther's? "Yes," replied Lady Bute, "and we shall not very soon have her amongst us again, for she remains until the election for Appleby is over; there is likely to be a very strong contest between Sir James and the Earl of Thanet. Mary writes me that Miss Lowther and she are fully occupied in canvassing, and she thinks were you and Caroline with them, four such advocates would silence the poor Earl's hopes at once." As neither Caroline nor I had ever been at an election, we could not forbear regretting our inability to join them; she then satisfied her mother's curiosity regarding her visit at Howard Grove, and informed us that Miss Talbot had engaged a protector to convey her in safety to her mamma. "And who, Janetta, should the valiant man, who has undertaken a voyage to Jamaica, be but Mr. Forester? I do not know if you have seen him, but he

reminds me of Sir Fopling Flutter; he certainly is a sweet man, for he uses perfumes in such abundance, that my head would ache if I only fancied myself in the same house with him; a sword drawn from the scabbard would at least occasion him a fainting fit; but a speck upon his gloves would be his instant annihilation! if they should chance to go in the same ship, your father's voice will destroy him, and poor Miss could never survive the loss of this intended acquisition to her family." "Oh! the fates forbid such a catastrophe! in the same ship with my father! why the tumult in his brain, at the sight of two people he dislikes so violently, would raise a storm at sea enough to sink the whole fleet!" "I am glad your spirits are so good, my dear girls," said Mrs. Stukely, "but you are sad mad-caps." My father coming in, the undeserved libel against the Princess Dowager of Wales became the topic of conversation, and indeed at that time every other seemed to give way to it at the entrance of an additional person.

"For the author I have no pity," said Mrs. Stukely, "but fear his family may suffer for his imprudent publication." "I hope not," said Lady Bute, "the punishment inflicted upon him is more lenient than he deserves; for from his insinuations against my poor lord, he has shown a malevolent disposition and depraved mind: but, thank Heaven, his designs are defeated." My father, in his usual manner, swore he was a rascal, and then handed the ladies into the drawing-room, to give their opinion of my portrait; their remarks were, however, most mortifyingly interrupted by the servant's announcing Lady Effingham, Miss Talbot, and her adorable cicisbeo, Mr. Forester. At the sight of them all in full dress we felt a general alarm, lest they intended to honour us with their company for the day; but her ladyship kindly removed our fears, by saying it was the birth-day of Sir Piercy Brett's little daughter, and that they were to meet a large party there; and fearing they should not have another opportunity of calling on Mr. Scott, they had taken Mile-End in their way.

Were I good at description, to picture the dress of the amiable lovers might afford some amusement; but unversed in the happy knack of making much of trifles, I must content myself with simply mentioning the articles that ornamented this delightful pair, and leave the readers to form their own idea of the effect of the tout-ensemble; the lady's robe was composed of a beautifully bright yellow satin, the train tied up with a bow of blond lace; a blond lace vandyke embroidered stomacher, very large hoop, white satin shoes, and diamond buckles: whether she was anxious that the profuse decoration of her head without should make up for the deficiency within, I know not; but certainly the variety which met the eye had a grotesque appearance; the hair dressed in the extreme of fashion; on one side a large aigrette of bugles and spangles, on the other artificial flowers of all colours fastened in a garland bandeau! her face patched without taste, and rouged without judgment! for such a Venus, the Adonis who accompanied her alone was suitable; his hair tied with

a bag and immense rose of ribband, a light coloured coat lined with white satin, waistcoat of white satin embroidered with gold, breeches to correspond of white satin, with gold garters, diamond knee and shoe buckles, and chapeau bras with diamond button and loop; the whole scented with some of every sweet, which can annoy the olfactory nerves in a perfumer's shop; alas! that habiliments thus tastefully selected, and carefully adjusted, were doomed to suffer from wanton frolic! In presenting a cup of chocolate to Mr. Forester, the servant *awkwardly* entangled his foot in the carpet, and discharged the whole contents of the waiter full upon the delicate beau; one of his hands was scalded, and the white satin totally spoilt! poor Miss Talbot was in agonies for the suffering of that dear hand so soon to be joined to her own; my aunt apologized, prescribed, and administered; but no, the lady insisted on returning home and calling in medical aid; and begged Lady Effingham to make her excuses to Lady Brett; but indeed the melancholy cause of her absence

was in itself sufficient excuse; during the whole of this ludicrous scene, my father could not, or did not, attempt to restrain his laughter; and I believe it was much to the satisfaction of all left behind when they borrowed my aunt's chariot to convey them home.

Lady Effingham, whom we would now gladly have detained, as she was an agreeable woman, proceeded alone to Camberwell. Papa was so delighted with the frolic as he called it, he swore he would give the servant a piece of gold for his willing stumble; my aunt smiled, "Ah! brother, I verily believe you were the contriver of the mischief, and bribed the man to make you sport; but I cannot allow you to employ my servants in annoying my visitors." "But, my dear sister, if you do not mean your friends to amuse themselves, why do you introduce into their company a monkey?" "Right, Mr. Scott," said Lady Caroline, "he always reminds me of the monkey who had seen the world;" a hearty laugh, and a

summons to dinner, put an end to the subject. In the course of the evening, Mrs. Stukely informed me she had received a letter from her brother, in which he told her he hoped shortly to return from a successful mission, and desired his best affections to his Janetta. Alas! this was the last mark of his remembrance she ever had to deliver to me; how little did we at that time suppose our pleasure at hearing from him would be changed into the acutest sorrow for his melancholy fate!

The next morning I spent in packing my father's trunks according to his directions, as Captain Moet, in whose ship he was to be a passenger, was expected to sail in two or three days; he told me as he should so soon return to settle in England, he and his sister had agreed it would be best to leave my picture behind; with a heavy heart I executed my task, for though I experienced no comfort in my father's presence, to feel that he was about to leave the kingdom, which contained his only child, without one apparent

sensation of regret, occasioned in my breast many a bitter pang. When in company, my naturally lively spirits triumphed over my more gloomy thoughts, but in the retired hour, (of which indeed at that period I knew but few) I have been frequently indebted to the soothing friendship of Lady Caroline to dissipate many a miserable reflection. We were summoned to the library to be introduced to Captain Moet and his brother, the handsome Commodore, of whom we had frequently heard, and as he greatly resembled, both in person and manners, Sir William Johnson, one of Caroline's first-rate favourites, I told her she must summon all her airs and graces to make a conquest. "Then," she answered, "it must be in Janetta's absence." "As men are generally vain, Caroline, you had better transfer your flattery to the Commodore, with him it may succeed, with me never, and I am ready to quarrel with you for having tried it, and more than half tempted to mortify you by setting my cap at him, which would doubtless entitle you to a green rib-

band. Jesting a part, he is a very pleasing man, but I must not forget that my dear subaltern is expected home shortly, who knows but he may be preferred to the rank of Captain at least; if rewarded according to his merits and sufferings, he ought to be a Colonel: but, alas! interest succeeds when desert remains in the back-ground." "Too true, Janetta, we know a few at present who are enjoying exalted honours, and unless robbing the nation may be considered meritorious, they have not apparently deserved them." "Pray, my dear girl, do not talk politics, but go collect all the artillery of your toilet to captivate, for the gentlemen dine here; one misfortune only that I know of would attend your success, poor Shrier must seek another Desdemona!"

As it was known to be the last day of papa's stay, we had visitors of all sorts, on business as well as friendship; the Shriers and Somerset remained all day, as they were to accompany him to the ship on the morrow; Lord Bute and Doctor Blair passed

the evening with us: my spirits were far from being elate, and there was not one of the company who did not endeavour to dissipate the depression, except him on whose account it was felt; but during the whole day, I received no expression of tenderness from my father, nor did he appear to notice the absence of my usual vivacity. When I retired to rest, the perturbation of my mind was no longer to be restrained, and I freely unburthened to Caroline the distress I endured. Notwithstanding her affectionate soothings, I passed a sleepless night, and arose long before my usual hour; I attempted to read, but in vain, my thoughts recurred incessantly to the distressing idea, that my only parent regarded me not with the tenderness with which my heart longed to inspire him.

He joined us at breakfast with his usual gaiety; my aunt frequently lifted up her eyes and shook her head, the indications of her astonishment and displeasure. He then ordered the carriage, and having kissed

Lady Caroline, my aunt, and myself; with equal sang-froid, he bounded into the coach, accompanied by our three young friends, who were to return to us as soon as the ship was out of sight. During their absence, my aunt and Caroline exerted all their friendship to sooth my wounded feelings; on their return, we learnt that they left him in excellent spirits, he had very good accommodations, and had met with two gentlemen on board who appeared very intelligent men, of whom he had some knowledge; so that his voyage, according to present appearances, was likely to be a pleasant one, Captain Moet being not only an agreeable man but an excellent mariner. Somerset proposed a little music to disperse the vapours, and accordingly he and the Shriers played and sung many humorous songs.

My uncle told me his brother Robert purposed coming home with his family on Captain Moet's return; I felt pleasure at the idea of being introduced to all my relatives: Caroline wished I might find Mrs. Robert, as

amiable as Mrs. Walter Scott. I understood she was a good sort of motherly woman, but did not expect to find in her a refined one, having been his housekeeper before he was married to her; they had two children, a girl of six years of age and a boy of two. I had just given my friend this account when Commodore Moet was announced, he had intended accompanying my father to the ship, but had been detained at the admiralty; he was going, he said, to Lord Amherst's, who would very soon leave England. "Her native land is not much obliged to Lady Amherst," observed lady Caroline, "for she wishes to rob it of every belle she honours with her regard, and would leave our disconsolate beaux to be admired only when they meet with—*a mirror.*" "Your ladyship is pleased to be severe upon us; but I think it is from real friendship Lady Amherst has wished for your company, as she thinks the voyage might benefit your health, and Miss Scott's agreeable company would reconcile her better to a land of strangers." We all joined

in a high eulogium on this truly amiable woman, and regretted the loss of her society.

On the Commodore's departure, my uncle said he had a piece of news to communicate, which was no less than his intention of purchasing an estate in Bedfordshire, about three miles from Wooburn, and as he purposed paying it a visit the day after the next, (on which we were engaged to a ball at the Scotch Hall, given in honour of St. Andrew's day) he thought if we would all honour him with our company we should find the jaunt a pleasant one. We all readily consented, and then agreed upon our mode of conveyance, which was as follows; my uncle, aunt, Caroline and myself in the coach, with Sutherland's company occasionally, for he had so anxious a desire to his poney all the way, that he was only pacified by being told so long a journey would kill it, unless he let a servant lead it sometimes. Somerset and the two Shriers were to go in the chariot, a servant was to be sent forward to Dunstable to order our dinner,

that we might have no unnecessary delays. Perhaps my aunt's only foible was an affectation of grandeur and dignity, which on this occasion broke forth in a manner ridiculously conspicuous. The coach was to be adorned by its best hammer-cloth, and drawn by six horses; and the groom converted into a footman for the sake of two out-riders; and Somerset was requested to honour the *set-out* by wearing his uniform! to which he very graciously acquiesced.

This important arrangement concluded, Lady Caroline and I betook ourselves to my dressing-room, that we might have an uninterrupted tête-à-tête. I then informed her that I understood my uncle had chosen a more retired part of the country for his residence on account of Sutherland's ill state of health, and as there was a good academy in the village where the estate was situated, it would be a great comfort to his mother to have him constantly near her. "Your uncle is really a most excellent husband, Janetta, he does not leave Mrs. Scott

a wish ungratified." "He certainly is most kind, but she is truly deserving his indulgence, and a man must be unfeeling indeed did he not study to reward the merit of so good a wife." "Very true, Janetta, but how many in the world meet with a far different fate; matrimony is a lottery, and of all risks the most hazardous." "Well, Caroline, marry when I will—" and here, what I had intended to be a very edifying speech was totally lost, by the interruption of our continual plague, Somerset; I desired him to be gone instantly, for I was not disposed to be interrupted; he was preparing to obey me, when Caroline called him back, and desired to know his commands. "Oh, they are but trifling, and Janetta does not appear in a humour to receive them very favourably." "Then give them to me, I will hear you patiently." "Oh, I only came to employ her by sewing on my epaulette, and fixing this beautiful sword-knot, which Mrs. Scott has just given me, that my old one may not disgrace the finery of the Bedfordshire cavalcade." "You might

have employed Agnes," I said in a tone of snappish jest. "I will do it for you, Somerset," said Caroline, "and tell you meanwhile why you were so unwelcome an intruder; had the subject been any other she might have been glad of a third person to enliven it, but as we were deeply engrossed just then by matrimony—" "Now, pray, Caroline, do not stuff his head with it, lest he post off with a ring to some Lady I do not approve." "Depend upon it, Janetta, I shall not enter into such an engagement without your knowledge." "I am sure she does not deserve such a promise from you, but you are continually quarrelling merely, as I believe, for the pleasure of making up the squabble again. I have heard that biting and scratching is Scotch folks' wooing, and I suppose you mean to introduce it in England: I shall go and ask Mrs. Scott's opinion." So saying, she ran down stairs, and we found, on following her, the card table set out; my uncle and the captain played backgammon, and as I never joined the whist party from choice, I sat down as a

looker-on, but had soon an agreeable companion in Lord Eglinton, a nobleman from whom I experienced much kind friendship: he had been absent from town some time, and regretted his inability to return before my father left England, as he had much to say to him. I doubted not but it was of me he wished to speak, as he ever appeared greatly interested for my welfare; he hoped I continued to regard him with confidence, and I assured his lordship I considered myself honoured by his attention to me, and should ever receive an admonition from him as a proof of friendship. A few hours only elapsed before I received one from him, which proved of service to me during the remainder of my gay career.

The anxiety I had suffered before my father left us, had caused a trifling indisposition, which had robbed me of my usual colour; and the next evening, on dressing for the Scotch ball, my glass I fancied reflected a ghastly figure, perhaps a young woman at her toilet on such an occasion is

seldom unattended by vanity, and she now whispered to me that rouge would supply the defect which would doubtless strike other eyes, even more forcibly than it had done my own: for the first time in my life, with a trembling hand, I applied the borrowed hue to my cheek; and as I left my uncle and aunt undetected, entered the ball-room with perfect confidence, accompanied by Caroline, the two Misses Elliot and Somerset. Soon after our entrance we were joined by Lord Eglinton and several others of our acquaintance, some of whom proposed a walk round the room to see who were arrived; I rose among the rest, when his lordship requested my attention for a few moments; he then took a handkerchief from my hand and wiped my cheek; my heart sunk with shame and mortification. "Here, Janetta, is some Eau-de-luce, wash it off, and never again let me see you guilty of deception." I instantly complied with his desire, and promised as it was the first, so it should be the last time I would ever subject myself to such a reproof. My spi-

rits for a while were completely damped, but his lordship took infinite pains to recal them by his polite attention to me. At his request I opened the ball with Captain Somerset; as Lady Caroline never danced minuets, I was called out so frequently, that at length, completely wearied of the slow step, I refused my hand for any more minuets, and accepted Commodore Moet's for country-dances, Somerset danced with Caroline; the lively measure dissipated my chagrin, and I had stayed to a later hour had not my consideration for the health of my friend induced me to return home. At twelve, Lord Eglinton escorted us home, and Somerset remained to take care of the Misses Elliot, for whom we sent the coach at two; his lordship remained with us till the Captain's return, who informed us that after we left the room, Captain Elliot and one of his jovial companions came in quite intoxicated, to the great distress of his poor daughters; but upon the arrival of Lord Cholmondeley being announced, they sneaked off, having just sense to know they were not in a fit

state to see their commanding officer. This, however, was only a friendly manœuvre of Commodore Moet's to rid the poor girls of their company.

We were roused at day-break by the vociferations of Sutherland, who was too anxious to begin his journey to let any one rest; when the cavalcade drew up, the pompous appearance of the six long-tailed bays was too much for the gravity of poor Caroline and myself to sustain; and fearful that our risible inclinations might get the better of our good manners, we obtained my aunt's permission to travel the first stage in the chariot with Somerset, who greatly amused us by his satirical remarks, though at the expense of my poor aunt's dignity. We dined at Dunstable, and took a view of the straw manufactory; and though anxious to make several purchases, we found it was totally inconsistent with our magnificence, to convert our coach and six long-tailed bays into a stage-waggon. After dinner, Caroline and I were obliged to accept

my Aunt's invitation to join her in the coach, and resign our places in the chariot to William Shrier and Sutherland.

At Wooburn we stopped to take tea, and then proceeded to Aspley, the place of our destination; the village is situated in so complete a valley, as to be unperceived from the road until arrived quite at the entrance. On inquiring if there was any person in the house who would shew us the premises, the clergyman of the parish came and politely invited us to the parsonage, where we were hospitably received by his wife, and treated with cakes and home-made wine; they procured the keys, and accompanied us to view the house, which in every respect answered my uncle's expectations. It was an excellent mansion, pleasantly situated, with very pretty grounds, a charming garden, well stocked with wall-fruit, a terrace in front of the house, and a handsome piece of water below. The steward lived in London, my uncle resolved to see him immediately on his return and make the purchase; which he

accordingly did. We returned to Wooburn to sleep, and the next day, after a very pleasant excursion, arrived in town.

My aunt paid a visit to Mrs. Stukely on her way home, and Caroline and I obtained her permission to remain all night in Grosvenor-square. As soon as we got out of the coach, Errington (our old nurse) ran up stairs, her joy giving the quickness of youth to her steps, exclaiming as she entered the room, "Welcome news, Madam! as I live, here's Lady Caroline, Miss Janetta, and Master Jackey, Madam!" Caroline and I ran to embrace our dear Mrs. Stukely; on turning our heads, to our no small amusement, we found Master Jackey in some danger of being smothered by the kisses of his old nurse, and her encomiums on the person of her darling afforded us infinite diversion. We had each brought the affectionate worthy creature a present, in which her mistress desired she would go dress herself, and wait on us at tea. Somerset was going to give mamma a description of our journey,

but I stopt him, saying, "It would absolutely kill Caroline if he made her laugh as he had done the day before." Mrs. Stukely bade him reserve the tale to amuse Lady Masters and her when they were alone; "My sister," she said, "has been at Wooburn, and is still on a visit to the Duchess; but they are such a miserable couple, and of such turbulent tempers, I have given up all intimacy with them, lest I should be present in a storm." Lady Caroline said, "She had heard, but could not pretend to prove the assertion, that the Duke, being greatly irritated one day by her Grace, after lamenting that she was a woman, and that it was beneath him to strike her, contrived to have a cage made, in which he absolutely had her confined and suspended from a beam in the servant's-hall: not a domestic dared release her, though she offered several handsome bribes to do it: though it did not complete her cure, it made a great impression on her mind for some time." Somerset laughed heartily, and exclaimed, "Heaven preserve me from such a wife! but seriously;

I think a cage of the same description might be infinitely useful for Janetta, as she is at times very unruly." Before I had time to reply, Doctor Blair entered the room, saying, "Ah! my little runagates, where have you been?" "You I suppose are come from Mile-End, my dear Sir," I said "or you would not have known we were here, for I imagine our expedition has not yet been announced in the public prints." "I do not know that it has, nor have I been at Mile-End; but as we returned from a ride this afternoon, his Royal Highness saw a coach and six he did not know stand at Mrs. Stukely's door; I guessed to whom it belonged, and as soon as I had an opportunity came to learn what grand occasion had taken the long-tailed bays out of the stable." I told him our errand, and my uncle's intention of immediately purchasing the estate. "Upon my word, I am very glad to hear it." "Ah! Doctor, so am I," said Somerset, "for Janetta is to be made a recluse, and I think a little wholesome seclusion will be of infinite service to her." "I hope com-

pulsion will not be used," said the Doctor, "and a voluntary recluse I think she will never be." "No, indeed," cried I, "but I do seriously wish you would take Master Jackey under your care, Sir; he is to be sure insufferably rude and ill-bred, but I know no one so capable of improving his manners as yourself; if therefore you will kindly undertake the task, I will intercede with mamma to place him under your tuition, instead of letting him go to sea again." "But there, Janetta, we should be depriving our country of one of its brave protectors; and though he may be rather defective in point of good manners, you know it is a duty to bear with the defects of our fellow-creatures." "Particularly," said Caroline, "when, as in the present instance, they are possessed of merit to deserve the respect of all their acquaintance; and notwithstanding all the invectives Janetta uses against the Captain, she would be the first to reprove any other who did it." "Most ably defended, my sweet advocate, how shall I thank you?" said Somerset. Caroline blush-

ed from the recollection of the construction he might apply to her words, though used in jest; and the Doctor observing her embarrassment changed the subject, by asking Mrs. Stukely if she was at the Venetian Ambassador's masquerade at Somerset-house last night? she answered in the negative. "Then," returned he, "you escaped being witness to an unpleasant scene; for Miss C. paid so little regard to delicacy in her dress, that the Princess Dowager was quite offended, and by way of reproof, publicly put her pocket-handkerchief over her shoulders, saying, she was fearful she would take cold: she was certainly dismissed from the room, for her chair was ordered and she was seen no more during the evening: and it is rumoured to-day that her future attendance at court will be dispensed with." "She certainly has confidence for any thing," exclaimed mamma. The Doctor said, he never heard of any woman whose mind was so thoroughly depraved; and having inveighed against masquerades altogether, he took his leave.

Poor Princess Dowager! could you have beheld the dress of the present generation within the last few years, how often would you have been shocked and disgusted by beholding women who call themselves modest, exhibiting themselves at places of public resort in a garb which bids defiance alike to modesty, decorum, and shame!

Soon after Doctor Blair quitted us, Lady Amherst called to take leave of Mrs. Stukely, as she took her departure from England in a few days; she lamented much that I had not accepted her invitation to accompany her. Mrs. Stukely hoped her ladyship would pardon me, as duty ought always to be preferred to inclination; but Lady Amherst only shook her head, saying, she believed the quarter of the globe she was going to inhabit, did not possess a magnet with the same powerful attraction as that did which would she heard soon be imported to England. She had been at Lord Bute's, and told Caroline her mother had heard from Lady Mary; that Sir James Lowther

had gained his election, but at such an immense expense it could scarcely be said to be without bribery and corruption. "Your mother," added she, "thinks it well you did not comply with your sister's desire of being present, for it has been a complete scene of riot and distraction; but you are expected in Pall-Mall to-morrow, and will then hear all about it." Her ladyship then affectionately embraced us and took her leave.

Often have I regretted that I allowed her to depart without me; I might, in accompanying her, have avoided all the ills which have since befallen me; but they were the Almighty's will, and blessed be His name! in the hour of adversity I have learnt to think His all-wise dispensations just and good! When she was gone, Mrs. Stukely said, she had often wondered at Lady Mary's preference of Sir James. "Oh!" said Caroline, "she has a pretty good spirit, and I shall not be surprised if she new mould him." "I wish she may," said I, "but I fear

the task will prove a difficult one; if she succeed her reward will certainly be great." Somerset declared, when he saw her ladyship, he would advise her to have her intended trepanned, that the surgeons might see if the few brains he possessed could be cleared from folly. I bade him not give us a lecture on anatomy, as it was a science I was by no means anxious to study; but desired he would change the subject to one more agreeable. "Well, then, we are ordered on an expedition, to what part I cannot yet tell you, but we are to sail with the first fair wind, in company with Commodore Moet, who will perhaps be here to-morrow to take leave of you." "You are particularly happy in your choice of subjects to-night, John, surely you could not think this more pleasing than the last." "Come, then, by way of helping us to forget all we do not wish to remember, suppose Lady Caroline and you sing to my flute; and I will promise to behave vastly well, and give you no more cause of complaint." We complied with his request; but I had too sincere an

affection for him to recover my accustomed spirits: brought up together from infancy, by our dear and exemplary mother, Mrs. Stukely, we had ever regarded each other as brother and sister, and with this idea the most perfect confidence subsisted between us.

A day or two following this unpleasant intelligence, we were to accompany Lady Bute to a masquerade, given by one of the foreign ambassadors. This was a species of entertainment I had never seen, and consequently anticipated much amusement from the novelty; though the reflection that in all probability this was the last public place to which I should be accompanied by my dear Somerset for a great length of time, was a considerable drawback to my pleasure. As we were all to go in character, Caroline and I determined that ours should be as simple as possible; she accordingly chose the dress of a Shepherdess, and I that of a Nosegay-girl; Lady Bute was an Indian Queen; the two Shriers Indian Princes, her

sons; and Somerset a Highland piper. In the early part of the evening I was highly amused; the rooms were magnificently decorated, and crowded with masks of all descriptions; several parties of musicians were stationed in different parts of the apartments, whose skilful performances charmed and enlivened the motley groups who listened; our Highlander's sweet pipe attracted much attention; and the well known masquerade cant, of "I know you," and "you don't me," was liberally bestowed upon us.

The best supported characters which came under my observation, were a Turk, a Quaker, and a Chimney-sweeper; the latter of whom was particularly attentive to me, to the great amusement of my party. An aged Friar too seemed to attach himself to our group, and offered many wise and seasonable admonitions to us; the little man of soot appeared to possess a fund of wit and humour, and afforded me infinite amusement. On asking him how so miserable a way of life as that he had chosen could afford him

so much mirth, he replied by singing a song, to me, then much in vogue, beginning with,

"Though I sweep to and fro, old iron to find,
Brass pins, rusty nails, they are all to my mind;
Though I sweep to and fro,
I'd have you to know,
There are sweepers in high life, as well as in low."

Having thanked him for his song, which was sung with much spirit and humour, I perceived my party were moving towards another room, and immediately joined the Shepherdess; but the crowd becoming extreme, we were unfortunately separated, to my great distress and alarm, which became so apparent as to attract the attention of a mask in the character of an old Jew, who asked me if I was looking for any one? I told him I was in search of my Shepherdess, whom I had but lately lost: he said, if I would place myself under his protection he would soon bring me to her: unsuspicious of evil, I suffered him to take hold of my

arm, and drag me from room to room, still hoping to find my friends: deceived in my expectation, and perceiving that we appeared to be leaving the company, it for the first time struck me that I was completely in the power of a total stranger; and all I had ever heard to prejudice me against masquerades, instantly rushed into my mind, and filled me with an alarm infinitely more terrible than that which induced me to place myself under his guidance. I immediately requested him to return with me, fearful of betraying my doubts; but instead of attending to my request, he put his arm round my waist, and continued to force me forward, at the same time addressing me in language which so completed my terror, that in a state of little less than distraction, I struggled to get at liberty, and at length screamed aloud: when instantly came to my assistance, the friendly Friar and Chimney-sweeper: the latter made a liberal use of his brush upon the shoulders of the roguish Israelite, and the former gave him in charge to a constable in waiting, at

the same time telling him, that in the morning he should be informed who gave the order; I then for the first time recognized in the voice of the good Monk that of my kind friend Lord Eglinton; I was ready to faint from agitation; his lordship brought me some negus from a side-board; and feeling myself perfectly safe under his protection, I soon became sufficiently collected to return my thanks to him and the gallant Chimney-sweeper, for their timely interference, and once more to set out in quest of the Indian Queen and Shepherdess, whom we soon discovered in great anxiety concerning me. Lord Eglinton told Lady Bute I was not very well, and if she would allow him he would escort Caroline and me home, and then send back the chariot for the Shriers and Somerset, as her ladyship had her chair. To this plan we all readily consented, and the chariot was immediately ordered: we suffered Caroline to remain in ignorance of the cause of my indisposition until we arrived at home; when his lordship related the distress in which he found me,

she inquired if he knew the wicked old cheat? "Yes!" he replied, "it is the vile libertine Macnamara: to-morrow he shall know me, and the Chimney-sweeper will also call him to account." I then asked who was the mask to whom I was jointly indebted as to himself? and was greatly surprised to find it was no less a personage than the Duke of York! I earnestly entreated Lord Eglinton to let the affair drop, and to prevail on his Royal Highness to treat it with the contempt it merited, since the fright it had caused me would only be productive of the good consequence of keeping me from masquerades in future; and should any thing occur to produce a challenge, the distress I had already experienced would be aggravated into misery. He bade me subdue all apprehensions on the subject, as he was confident Macnamara dared not challenge either the Duke or himself, and they considered him too contemptible to put themselves on a par with him. His lordship remained with us until the rest of the company returned; when, completely fa-

tigued by the events of the evening, I retired to bed.

The next morning I proposed returning to Mile-End, as I had already exceeded the time of absence my aunt allowed when she left me at Mrs. Stukely's; but Caroline being rather indisposed, Lady Bute wrote to my aunt requesting her to excuse my return for the present, as Caroline was unwilling to part with me until she was quite well. This arrangement was much to my satisfaction, being nearer Somerset than when at the Green, and as the time of his departure drew so near, we were anxious to be as much together as possible. In the course of the morning, Doctor Blair and Lord Eglinton called on us; the former had accompanied His Royal Highness to Macnamara's father, whom he informed of his son's conduct, telling him that he required a proper apology to be made, through Doctor Blair, otherwise he must expect to be treated as a coward, since no other would insult an innocent and unprotected woman. He was ex-

tremely sorry for his son's misconduct, which he would certainly reprove, and hoped to convince him of the propriety of making the concession the Duke required. "And as I have received it, Janetta," said the Doctor, "I trust your fears of a duel will be at an end, for you may venture to assure yourself Lord Eglinton will not challenge him. The Duke took the most effectual means of concluding the affair peaceably by applying to his father." I was extremely rejoiced to hear of the termination of this unpleasant business, and acknowledged myself greatly indebted to the Prince for his kind interference. "Indeed, Janetta, he deserves your personal acknowledgments," said Caroline. "I must leave those for you to make, since coming from your ladyship would ensure them a gracious reception." "That is such a pretty speech, Janetta, I will reward it by telling you a little of my indisposition has been counterfeit, in order to keep you here until you knew the result of this terrible duel, and that I am very nearly in my usual health." I thanked her for her

kind intentions, and as soon as the gentlemen left us we ordered the chariot and proceeded to Grosvenor-square, supposing Mrs. Stukely would be anxious to hear my own account of the masquerade adventure.

Errington, who saw the chariot stop, posted herself in the hall to receive us, no sooner had we alighted, than, with her eyes swimming in tears, she exclaimed, "Oh, my dear ladies, we are going to lose Master Jackey! and Miss Janetta, I heard as how you had like to have been run away with from that nasty *carade!*" "Oh! pray, Errington, do not talk of it, but shew us to mamma." We found Mrs. Stukely and Lady Masters at home; they had heard all the disagreeables of the preceding evening, and were now truly rejoiced when we informed them all was amicably adjusted. Somerset, who had been at Sir George Pocock's, just came in; as he entered, Caroline addressed him with "Well, Captain, prepare to accompany us, for we are come with an order to impress you into our service,

therefore I beg you will not resist our authority." "The bare idea," answered he, in the same jocular strain, "of the desperate hands into which I have fallen has so reduced my courage, that with the ability I have lost even the inclination to resist, and will therefore enter your service a volunteer!" "And you, my dear Madam," said I to Mrs. Stukely, "are under arrest to appear at Lord Bute's in our custody;" she avowed her readiness to deliver herself up to our charge, and taking leave of Lady Masters, whom we could not persuade to accompany us, we returned to Pall-Mall, where a select party was to spend the day.

Somerset informed me that intelligence had been received of Captain Moet, who was on his return home, and his arrival in England very shortly expected. I rejoiced at the prospect of hearing from my father; and of being introduced to my uncle Robert and his family. During the evening, Caroline, Somerset, and I drew our chairs together, and entered into conversation, whilst

the rest of the party were engaged at cards; we were anxious to know if he had become acquainted with the enterprise he was going upon; he believed it was only on a cruize, which gave us the gratifying hope of shortly seeing him again. "The Commodore will be here to-night to take leave of you, and you will be pleased to hear that Gilbert Elliot is to accompany him as first Lieutenant." We were indeed glad to hear of so good a situation for this excellent young man, who, under all his mother's severe afflictions, had proved himself a most dutiful son and her greatest comfort; he very much resembled her, both in person and manners; but his father's conduct had made so great an impression on his mind, that a naturally cheerful disposition had given place to a dejection of spirits, truly distressing to those who regarded him.

The Commodore and Gilbert made their appearance together; the former, on paying his compliments to the Captain, said he was happy to find him always in good company!

a civility Caroline determined to disqualify, by saying, "In this instance it was a matter of compulsion, not of choice, as he had been impressed into our service; but," added she, "if you have occasion for him to add to your number, we will deliver him to your care; he is a likely lad, and very docile, therefore I trust you will use him well." "I cannot refuse one of your ladyship's recommendation, and promise to do my duty to the youth." Somerset bowed, and Mrs. Stukely congratulated Caroline on her good spirits. The Commodore then informed me that my uncle Robert and family were passengers on board his brother's ship, who had been remarkably fortunate in having so quick a voyage. "I hope your expedition may prove as propitious, and your return as speedy," I said. "And I hope to find you and Lady Caroline in the same good health and happy spirits in which I shall leave you." "Your absence will be regretted by all your friends," said Caroline, "and I may venture to say none are more unwilling to part from you than the

present company." "After having received so many compliments from the young ladies, I know of none that would be acceptable from an old one," said Mrs. Stukely, "I shall therefore only inquire when you leave us?" "I leave town on Saturday, but the Captain must be at Portsmouth the day before me." Somerset promised to be ready to receive him, and shortly after the Commodore took leave of us.

This was Tuesday, and the idea that in a few days I should be separated from him I had ever considered as a brother, perhaps for ever, completely depressed my spirits. Nor were those of Gilbert Elliot more gay, for which he accounted to Somerset, by saying, that his mother and he had just had a very distressing conversation; and it gave him great pain to reflect that in his absence she would not have one protector to defend her and his sisters from violence: Lord and Lady Minto had indeed promised to show her all the friendship in their power. Somerset told him she would be surrounded

by friends, for we were all fully sensible of her merit, and should be anxious to pay her every attention in our power: at this instant, when I was going to corroborate his assertion, Caroline presented me with a letter from Lady Mary, congratulating me on the happy termination of my masquerade adventure; she told me Sir James Lowther was so exasperated at the conduct of the mock Israelite, that he longed to have been present, that he might have had an opportunity of bastinadoing him; though in many respects faulty himself, he detests the idea of an insult to a woman. I withdrew to answer the letter, as the bearer waited, which I did as follows:

"My dear Lady Mary,

How swiftly does ill news travel; I hoped my provoking adventure had ere this been buried in oblivion, and that it would not have reached Lowther-hall: you remember how often we have railed against Friars; I have now the greatest reason in the world to revere the pious fraternity, and I hope

for my sake you will do the same. I am greatly indebted to Sir James for his kind wishes on the occasion, and to Miss Lowther for her friendly commiseration; I beg you will make my acknowledgments to both. You reprove me for not accepting your invitation to the election, but when I tell you my refusal proceeded from consideration for your sister's health, which could not have borne the riotous bustle of such a scene I know you will excuse me. It is true I should have avoided this disagreeable affair, but I am now so disgusted by the specimen I have received, that no farther danger can be apprehended for me at masquerades, having bid adieu to them for ever.

We are all completely B flat here at present, as the Commodore, Gilbert Elliot, and Somerset are to leave us in a day or two; we shall be in want of a cicisbeo; I suppose you will think I am rather ungrateful to poor *Othello* and his brother, but I really mean not to depreciate their value; we shall find them very useful in the absence

of the rest. Captain Moet we hear is very near his native shore, and brings with him my uncle Robert and his family. You may imagine we all lament your absence, but hope you will return, accompanied by Miss Lowther, when the new member takes his seat. Lady Caroline begs me to make her excuses for not writing; she denies the charge when I accuse her of laziness, and says it will give you more pleasure to receive her verbal communications. My dear Somerset is come to tell me I keep your messenger waiting, and that the company below are impatient for my return; I must therefore, with respects to Sir James and Miss Lowther, hasten to assure you that, with affectionate regard, I continue,

My dear Lady Mary,
your's truly,
Janetta Scott."

On my return to the company, Caroline exclaimed, I had staid scribbling so long, she had a great inclination, by way of punishment, to keep me in ignorance of the

news she had just received. "Then I think," said I, "it cannot be worth relating." "Why to be sure it is not particularly interesting, only I understand Lord Clive, and all the poor creatures under his command who are left, are expected to arrive next week: one amongst them is mentioned by the name of Blair, that's all, Janetta." "I shall be happy to hear of their safe arrival," I replied. "Aye! now you have heard that precious name announced," continued she; "as for me, I really dread the conflict, for what with sorrow at parting from Somerset, and joy at meeting Blair, I fear the transition will be too much for me; you, Janetta, are formed of quieter materials I suppose?" "You are greatly too bad, Caroline, but I shall have an opportunity of retaliating I have no doubt." "And most richly will she deserve it, Janetta, I am sure," said Lady Bute. "Had I said half as much," cried Somerset, "I should have received one of her never-to-be-forgotten lectures." "And yet I fear you will shortly need some of them to remind you of your poor Janetta;

but remember my heart will be ever with you." "Why, this news has certainly affected the poor girl's brain," said Caroline; "she is absolutely making love in public; fie! Janetta, vow to poor Somerset your heart will always be with him, when you know it is otherwise disposed of! pray, my dear, have you two? if so, it would be charity to bestow one on a friend who wants such an article." And pray, Caroline, who may that be? you are possessed of dozens you know."

Early the next morning, Caroline and I repaired to Grosvenor-square; as it was the last day of Somerset's stay, he had obtained Lady Bute, and Mrs. Stukely's leave for us to accompany him to Portsmouth; and I expected the distressing task of assisting Errington in arranging his packages: but my dear mother, with her usual tenderness, had spared my feelings this trial; fearful that Errington's lamentations would increase my depression of spirits, she had herself undertaken the task. When I take a retro-

spect of those happy days, in which I experienced the maternal kindness of a being like the sainted Mrs. Stukely, and the fraternal affection of Lady Caroline Stewart and Captain Somerset, my heart sinks at the dismal contrast my present cheerless situation affords, and agonized almost to breaking, unfits me for the continuation of my wretched narrative.

Caroline and I had been inspecting Agnes' arrangement for our journey, and I was leaving the room, when she said, "Janetta, before we descend, I have something here for your inspection." She then presented to my view a miniature set round with brilliants, in which I perceived the exact likeness of myself. "And is this all you have to show me?" "What displeases you in it, Janetta? it is well executed I am sure, and a striking likeness." "Oh! it is too trifling for my notice." "But the person for whom I intend it, has, I doubt not, a more just idea of its value." On entering the drawing-room, we found Mrs. Stukely

and Somerset apparently in earnest conversation, and were retiring, but she called us back, saying, "I have only been giving my dear son a mother's parting lecture, which I trust he will bear in mind." "I too would offer him some advice," said Caroline, "but wanting eloquence must beg your leave to present him with an hieroglyphic: Miss Scott indeed thinks it too trifling for his acceptance; but, Somerset, should you ever feel tempted to disregard Mrs. Stukely's advice, I here offer you a charm, which, if you look upon it, shall instantly recal your wandering heart: I am neither witch nor gipsy, but I must tie the talisman about your neck, though indeed there is nothing *charming* in it." She then gracefully hung the ribband, by which it was suspended, round his neck, enjoining him to look at it once every day. "To contemplate the resemblance of one so dear to me," said Somerset, "would ever be a pleasing task, but Lady Caroline's injunctions will render it doubly so: though I trust you are neither of you now to be told, that I

need nothing to remind me of the two objects ever in my thoughts." My mother now called me from the room, and telling me she knew how anxious Somerset was to possess a miniature of Lady Caroline, gave me the one she had, to present to him as my parting gift; saying, she could easily have it replaced by the same artist. Most truly happy did I feel to have the power of gratifying him, and eagerly presented my treasure, saying, "You will find your Janetta's present far more valuable than that of Lady Caroline; esteem it as such." I saw pleasure sparkle in his eyes as he took it from my hand, and as he thanked me he folded me in his arms with a fond brother's love. "Hey-day!" said Caroline, "this must be something valuable indeed, my trifle called forth no such raptures: pray, may I be favoured with a sight of the treasure?" he held it in his hand for her inspection, fearful for a moment to part with it. "If Janetta had nothing more valuable for your acceptance, she had better have offered you her simple good wishes at parting, and

kept that bauble for her little cousins to play with: I could quarrel with the chit for giving it you without consulting me." "Janetta loves her brother too well, not to add to his happiness when in her power; and surely, dear Lady Caroline, she has not really incurred your displeasure by so doing?" "Why not very seriously, but I shall seize the first favourable opportunity of revenge that offers."

We then accompanied him to the Green to take leave of my uncle and aunt, where I learnt that Captain Moet was arrived at the Isle of Wight, and that they expected my uncle Robert and his family in a few days. We all concluded my father would not now long continue in Madeira; not that his actions were frequently governed by the love of his family. When my aunt heard it was our intentions to go with the Captain to Portsmouth, she immediately begged us to accept the loan of her coach; which we gladly accepted; for as Gilbert Elliot was to accompany us, we should have found Mrs.

Stukely's chariot inconvenient for so long a journey. When we rose to depart, my aunt begged Somerset to accept a very elegant diamond ring, which she hoped he would wear for her sake.

As soon as we arrived in Grosvenor-square, Caroline told Mrs. Stukely we were to have the coach, and she hoped the six long-tailed bays. "Indeed, I hope not," said Somerset, "it would be giving me a consequence at Portsmouth, I have no wish to assume." "Oh, nonsense!" returned she, "they will take us for the daughters of some rich alderman, who have just come out of the city to see the world; I shall like it vastly." Thus did she, throughout the day, by her lively conversation, attempt to raise the drooping spirits of myself and Somerset, whose extreme dejection, spite of his efforts to conceal it, was but too visible; and in vain did I attempt to rally my feelings, my spirits appeared past recal; notwithstanding the kind efforts of Mrs. Stukely and Caroline to amuse me. Lady Masters' serious admonitions to sub-

mit with patience to the all-wise decrees of Providence, had the desired effect, and we both endeavoured to join in cheerful conversation. Caroline suddenly recollected that when we parted from Somerset at Portsmouth, we should have no gentleman to return with us; and the journey was rather too long for two young ladies to undertake without a protector. Somerset immediately proposed that we should request the Shriers to accompany us, and as they were held in such high esteem by us all, we could form no possible objection; a messenger was therefore dispatched, desiring their company at supper. They were fortunately at home, and obeyed our summons with alacrity. The Captain made our proposal to them, apologizing for the short notice allowed them by saying, "These giddy girls never thought until to-night that it would be out of my power to return with them, and unless you can become their protectors they must be punished for their thoughtlessness by a most unpleasant journey to town." They very politely accepted the charge with-

out any hesitation, and told Somerset he alone deserved the imputation of thoughtless, as it was certainly his duty to provide us with an escort.

We accused our young friends of having neglected us, and begged they would give a good account of the time they had passed without seeing us. George said they had been on a visit to Captain Craig's, whose eldest daughter was, in company with Miss Hutchinson, to embark for the East Indies, under the protection of Captain Lascelles, next week. "They are," added he, "in pursuit of Nabobs; the Captain is extremely averse to the project, but the young lady is determined; her sister and I have wasted much rhetoric in dissuading her from what, to us at least, appears a wild enterprise; but the success of a friend who went out on the same speculation, has encouraged her to try her fate." He then told us of an affair which had occupied much of his time, not in the most pleasant manner, though it had happily terminated according to his

wishes. A young friend and countryman of his, whose name was Achmuty, and whose family was highly respectable, had become so fascinated by the pretty face of a young girl, who kept a milliner's shop in the Strand, that he had resolved to marry her. Shrier and another friend, Doctor Ray, had more than once incurred his displeasure by painting her character in its true colours; but had at length contrived a scheme, which fully convinced him that a union with her would have involved him in disgrace and misery. Lady Masters complimented him on his indefatigable friendship, and hoped it would not be unrewarded; he politely told her he was sufficiently rewarded by her approbation. The kind Mrs. Stukely ordered supper at an earlier hour than usual, in consideration of our proposed early rising the next morning: she took a most affectionate leave of her dear Somerset before she retired to rest, as we all entreated her not to rise in the morning at the hour we did. Caroline begged I would share her apartment, for all the ser-

vants had such tragical faces, she was sure they thought of no one but the Captain, and should they forget to call her in the morning, and she be left behind, she should get into the tragical line too. I needed not a summons in the morning, for sleep had fled from my pillow, and I had been down stairs some time when the rest of the party joined me at the breakfast-table, where we took a hasty cup of chocolate, and then commenced our journey, drawn by our favorite bays, and attended by two footmen on horseback. We proceeded very pleasantly, and, without adventure or interruption, safely arrived at a very pleasantly situated inn at Portsmouth, where we were shown into a handsome dining-room, the windows of which commanded a delightful view of the shipping; to Caroline and myself a sight completely novel.

We found the Commodore was already arrived, and expected at the Hotel at supper. We ordered tea and coffee, and whilst it was preparing, Somerset and Eiliot left

us to show themselves on board their respective ships, charged with an invitation to the Commodore to join us at tea: the evening was beautifully fine, and as we purposed returning the next day, we were anxious to walk out, and view as much of the town as our limited time would allow, and therefore waited the return of the gentlemen with some impatience. At length Lady Caroline, with a joyful countenance, announced their arival; the Commodore soon followed them, and was most cordially received by us; indeed her ladyship told him, had he not accepted her invitation, she should have felt disposed to quarrel with a feather. "Amusing as such an altercation might have been to your friends, Lady Caroline, I should greatly have regretted being the first person who caused a change in your temper;" he expressed his sorrow that he was not aware of our intention of visiting Portsmouth, as he should have been happy to have joined our party; we assured him that at the time he left town the excursion was unthought of by us. He and Somerset prevailed on us

to give up our plan of returning to town the following day; and both begged of us to honour them with our company on board their ships; but Caroline insisted before she agreed to that, that Somerset should promise not to incur my displeasure; "For you know," said she, "how very terrible she sometimes is in her resentment, and should she give you an unlucky push, where you have no means of escaping, and plunge you into the deep, the shock would be too much for my nerves." He assured her ladyship he would be particularly guarded; and having nothing to apprehend, if my violence were not called forth, she consented.

In our walk we were joined by Colonel Frazier, and Captains Campbell and Townsend, with whom we were all intimate; the two former accompanied us to our hotel to sup: notwithstanding the lively conversation of the party, such an unusual gloom hung over my spirits, I could not rally them sufficiently to join in it. Caroline exerted herself to enliven me in vain. After sup-

per, she said, "Janetta, a very celebrated female author has recommended a glass of brandy as a specific, that will make a woman talk like an angel; do try the experiment." "Your prescription is altogether abominable, but the Commodore has just administered a far more pleasing draught: for he tells me, if the wind continues long in this quarter, it is likely they may be countermanded." Colonel Frazier, who commanded that fine regiment the Highland Watch, sent for a part of his band to amuse us; and we thought not of retiring till a late, or rather early, hour; totally unaccustomed to give our own orders at an inn, we now for the first time regretted that we had not followed Mrs. Stukely's advice in taking Agnes with us.

Immediately after breakfast the following morning, the gentlemen escorted us to the water-side, where a boat was in readiness to convey us to the Commodore's ship; when the chair descended in which we were to be hoisted on deck, I saw Caroline's colour

change, and though she expressed no fears, her timidity would not allow her to seat herself the first; she, however, recovered resolution on seeing me safely deposited; as soon as she was drawn up, the sailors on deck gave us three cheers, and never having heard such a noise in her life, she screamed out, and inquired what could be the matter? Somerset told her they were only expressing their pleasure at seeing such company on board. "That horrid noise a symptom of pleasure! I verily thought we were all going to the bottom." We were now handed into the state-cabin, and her ladyship, in her surprise at seeing such a nice room, had nearly forgotten her fears; but scarcely were we seated ere our ears were saluted by a feu-de-joie, which completed her terror. "Oh, mercy!" exclaimed she, "I thought the enemy never dared come here, and the ship is sailing, where are we going? where are Janetta and Somerset?" I was almost suffocated with laughter, and as soon as I could speak, assured her she was in perfect safety, and that my mirth was occasioned

by her needless alarm. "Really, Janetta, I could not have supposed you would thus enjoy the loss of my wits, for they are certainly all scared away, and I must entreat the Commodore will allow us to return to shore." He apologized for having caused her so much alarm, by what was intended as a compliment; and after having taken some cakes and wine, we were once more safely landed. On board, we met with William Moet, the Captain's eldest son, who was going out with his uncle as midshipman; he was grown a very fine youth; I had not seen him for two years, and as he had always been a favourite with me, this unexpected meeting gave me great pleasure; he told us that he had been one voyage with his father, but that he was so desirous to enter the navy, his uncle had sent him to Woolwich to be properly instructed for his present station. The Commodore said he was a very good boy, and he hoped would be an honour to the profession he had chosen; he then proposed a walk to the bowling-green; we found several gentle-

men playing, amongst the rest Colonel Frazier and Captain Campbell; Somerset and the Commodore joined in the diversion, and we sauntered an hour away until dinner very pleasantly.

Frazier and Campbell joined our party, and being very cheerful companions, helped to raise Caroline's spirits after the terror she had experienced in the morning. After dinner, we got William Moet to attend us to a toy-shop, where we purchased a very handsome large ship, to take home as a present for Sutherland. I wished to have it named the Somerset, but was over-ruled by Caroline and the Captain, who thought it should be called Sutherland; a painter was accordingly sent for, who in the course of the evening returned us our ship, with her name painted in smart gilt letters. The Commodore and Somerset then took some pains to describe the launching of a ship to us, and we drank success to the Sutherland as she made her descent. After supper, the reflection that a few short hours would per-

haps separate me for ever from Somerset, completely unfitted me for conversation; and Caroline's spirits beginning to forsake her, we rejoiced that the gentlemen took an early leave. Elliot and Moet went on board, promising to see us in the morning; the Commodore perceiving our dejection, exhorted us to reflect that they should be under the guardianship of the same all-powerful Protector at sea as on land; and bade us imagine we were only parting with a friend who was going to make a pleasant excursion for a few months; at the same time assuring us Somerset should never want a friend so long as he lived.

"This Commodore is really a charming man," said Caroline, when we had retired to our own apartment; "I wish, Janetta, your father resembled him, and for the sake of being your mamma, my dear, I would endeavour to make a conquest." "Indeed, Caroline, I think you had better try your skill with the Commodore himself, than wait to see his resemblance in my father, and I

should like as well to remain your friend without being your daughter." The next morning, after taking a cup of chocolate, we took a most affecting leave of Somerset, and with heavy hearts, entered the coach to return to town. Lady Caroline and I looked from the windows so long as we could perceive a shadow of the form so dear to us, and then seating ourselves, both gave way to a shower of tears, which proved a seasonable relief to our feelings. Alas! poor Somerset! even at this distant period my tears flow afresh when I think of thy early fate! just at the season when I most needed thy generous friendship, thou wert lost to me for ever! George Shrier recalled us to composure, by reminding us of the Commodore's good advice, and endeavoured as much as possible to amuse us, by relating anecdotes of his native country, and amongst the rest of young Achmuty's family.

We sent a servant forward to order dinner, that we might not be detained on the road longer than it was necessary for our

fat steeds to rest. When we recommenced our journey, "Now," said Caroline, "we shall soon be at home, and I know not which party will be best pleased, the travellers or those who welcome them; unless, indeed, a certain person presents himself at the coach-door to hand us out, and then the readiness with which Janetta will give her hand will shew whose joy is greatest." "You mean my uncle Robert I suppose." "Indeed! pray, my dear, is Mr. Scott a subaltern in the army? either you are very absent, or a little deceitful to pretend not to understand me." Towards evening, we perceived a man ride several times round the coach, and at last peeped quite in at the window; Caroline was greatly alarmed, but ventured her head out of the window, and called one of the footmen to inquire if he had observed him? he said, "He saw a gentleman on horseback, who seemed to be seeking something; but your ladyship need not fear any highwayman at so early an hour." John had scarcely returned to his post, when the object of her alarm called to the coachman

to stop, who instantly obeyed. Caroline screamed aloud, took out her purse, and was in the act of presenting it, when I exclaimed, "Oh, Heavens! it is Blair!" this recovered her from the terror she had felt, and Blair having given his horse to a servant entered the carriage, and laughed heartily at the reception her ladyship had given him; he had rode round the coach purposely to see if we should recollect him; and most probably, had I not been sitting back, my thoughts fully engrossed by Somerset, I should have recognised him on his first appearance.

We most sincerely congratulated him on his safe return to his native clime, after all the dangers we had heard he had encountered. He told us he only arrived in town the night before; that he had in the morning called at Mrs. Stukely's, and learning she expected our return in the evening, had determined to meet us on the road. He would have been in town before we left it, but as his regiment was in Ireland, he had been under

the necessity of marching into Kinsale with it, before he could obtain leave of absence. He had heard from his brother the night before that Lord and Lady Bute were quite well, and that Lady Mary had not yet arrived at home. It may be imagined that as Blair had been so long absent, we had each too many questions to ask and occurrences to relate for the conversation to flag: when we were near London, we began to consider whether we should make our appearance first in Grosvenor-square, or at the Green; but as it was late Blair prevailed on us to go to Mrs. Stukely's, and visit my aunt in the morning.

We were soon most cordially welcomed by my dear mother and Lady Masters; and were happy to find our lengthened stay had not caused them any uneasiness, as when they began to reflect on the short time we had allowed ourselves, they thought we should be too much fatigued to return without a day of rest at Portsmouth. Mrs. Stukely asked if we were not much surpris-

ed to see the Captain? and I gave them a most ludicrous account of Caroline's fright, apprehending him to be a highwayman. "Really, Janetta," said Lady Masters, "I am astonished you recollected Captain Blair, for the climate has so greatly altered him I should not have known him." "No, indeed," said Caroline, "I am not surprised at that, after an absence of three years too; really, Janetta, your memory upon some occasions is wonderfully retentive; but I imagine, my dear, were I to leave England for so long a time, you would be obliged to some acquaintance to introduce me to you on my return." "I trust my memory will never be so greatly impaired as to rob me of the recollection of my dearest friend." "Nor does Lady Caroline believe it of you, Janetta, she is only willing to give you the retort courteous for your magnifying description of her fears," said Blair. There was a something in the tone in which this speech was uttered, that said to my heart, Blair thought me incapable of ingratitude for past friendship; and my feelings were far better

expressed by the smile I gave him than by any words I could have used. As we drank our coffee, he gave us a recital of the hardships he had endured, amongst so many others, in the dungeon at Calcutta. Numerous accounts have already excited the pity of the public for the poor sufferers on this occasion; but how acute were our feelings of sympathy on hearing them related by one who had so recently escaped from them; one too so highly regarded by us all! Doctor Blair came in the evening to inquire after us. "Well, my little girls, and how do you like the sea?" To explain our exploits on the ocean, opened a fresh field of amusement to me, and I readily seized the opportunity, to the diversion of the whole party. "Well," said Lady Caroline, "I am really happy Janetta is so capable of entertaining you all, though it is at my expense." "Never mind," said the Doctor, "your ladyship will not long be at a loss for an opportunity of retaliation I dare say."

We had an early supper, and after a

cheerful meal gladly sought our pillows; for me, the emotions I had felt in the last four-and-twenty hours had been so varied I stood in need of repose. As soon as we had breakfasted, we ordered the chariot and set off to the Green unattended, as the Shriers had business in the city, and Blair at the War-office. We called on Lady Bute in our way, who congratulated Caroline on her good looks, and was indeed delighted to see the improvement which a little change of air had made in her appearance. As soon as Sutherland perceived the carriage he ran up the avenue, welcoming our return by shouts of joy; and to our great satisfaction, my aunt came to the Hall-door to receive us, as it proved she was not displeased by our detention of the carriage and horses another day. My uncle accosted us with, "What a pair of runagates! I thought you had sailed with Somerset." "I believe, Sir," said Lady Caroline, "Janetta's inclination was good so to do, but her complaisance to me induced her to return." We presented the ship to Sutherland with Somerset's love;

for some time the boy's delight was beyond all bounds; he capered, danced, and shouted until we were well nigh stunned with his noise. "Mamma, when we go into Bedfordshire we will put it into our basin, and then every body that comes to the house will see my ship! and see, see, here's my name upon it." "Yes," said I, "because you are both captain and owner."

My aunt finding his clamour not likely to cease until the novelty of the ship wore off, took Lady Caroline and I into her dressing-room, that we might hear each other speak. My uncle sent the chariot home with a message to Mrs. Stukely, saying, he would send us home in the evening. We learnt from my aunt, that she expected my uncle Robert and his family the next day. "I shall send for you, Janetta, in a few days to be introduced; but as I am likewise a total stranger to them, unless they request to see you immediately, I should like to be a little acquainted with them before you come." "I sincerely hope," said Caroline,

" they will soon meet with a house to their satisfaction, I do not feel as if I should be quite right until they are safe at home; should she not be an agreeable woman how shall we all be mortified!" " Oh, we must not anticipate evils: but come and relate your Portsmouth amusements to Mr. Scott, Sutherland is by this time quiet I should think." My uncle wished he could have been a witness of poor Caroline's fright on the water: " Ah! you dearly love mischief," said my aunt, " I suppose it would have amused you almost as much as one of my feats on horseback." " So then, Mr. Scott, it is from you Janetta inherits her love of mischief, is it?" " No, no, Lady Caroline, I cannot allow that, her fort you know is exaggeration, when the mischief is over."

After dinner we took a walk to see the poor old pensioners; and on our return my uncle requested us to indulge him by playing a rubber; in the midst of which Blair entered to escort us home; as soon as our

game was ended, my uncle and he had a long conversation relative to the affairs of India: and the former feeling his humanity strongly excited by the account of our poor countrymen's sufferings, and his indignation at their inadequate rewards, with more vehemence than he usually exhibited, hoped the latter never again intended to leave his native country. "When duty calls me in defence of my king and country, I trust inclination as well as honour will forbid me to refuse her summons." "Aye, aye, all this is very fine; but tell me, what have you gained by what you have already done? are you even preferred?" "No, Sir, but in my opinion, he who will not serve his country as a subaltern, is very unfit to be a commander: for my part, I love mine well enough to fight for her even should I never be promoted; however, of this be assured, I will not again serve under the same commander; nor am I philosopher enough not to wish for advancement, as without it I shall never arrive at that happiness I hope to attain." "Well, now you have talked

about fighting quite long enough to convince us all of your valour, perhaps you will give us your company in the music-room," said Caroline; he instantly led her to the harpsichord, and, calling upon me to sing, she began to play "He comes, he comes, the hero comes;" when we had concluded, "Now," said she, "is not this more agreeable than cannon-balls rattling about your ears?" "Performed by your ladyship, how can it fail!" "Then I suppose were the whim to seize me of firing a musket, and depriving you of a limb, you would still be pleased?" "I am confident you could not inflict a wound that would not occasion pleasure, even were it mixed with pain." "Janetta, pray congratulate Blair on the improvement he has made abroad; you know he used only to have *the elevated mind of a Scotchman to boast*, but he has certainly added to that the gallantry of a Frenchman; pray, my dear, which of these accomplishments should you wish him to retain?" "Had I any influence, I should certainly vote for the former." "Pshaw! child, you have no

taste!" "And if a contrary wish would ensure its possession, I trust she never will have!" There was much warmth of friendship in the manner in which Blair spoke these words, and yet he looked more than half reproachfully at me, seeming to say "Unkind Janetta! do you then doubt your influence?" in truth I did not, though unsanctioned by any profession from him to imagine it extended beyond that of a person for whom he had much friendly regard. But to return—the horses were ordered to the chariot, and we were quickly conveyed to Grosvenor-Square. As soon as we were seated, Mrs. Stukely put into my hand a letter from my dear Somerset; I eagerly ran up stairs to peruse it, it contained but a few lines, which were as follow:

"I have not now time to send you, as I could wish, the effusions of a heart ever affectionate towards you; for the wind is favorable, and we are just ready to sail. Our destination is I believe to Gibraltar; of this be assured, my dear Janetta, to what-

ever latitude consigned, you will never be obliterated from my memory. It may please the Almighty suddenly to snatch me away, if so, I trust I shall die honourably, in the full assurance of having endeavoured to perform my duty here, and a blessed hope of eternal reward hereafter: in such an event let this be your consolation, my Janetta, and in my last moments I will send up a prayer for blessings on the head of that dear sister, whose affection and friendship have been amongst the greatest comforts of my life. Should I be spared again to embrace you, may I learn on my return, that in my absence you have neither tasted sorrow nor wanted a friend. Tell Lady Caroline to accept my affectionate regards, and believe me, my dearest Janetta,

most truly yours,
John Somerset."

My dear Mrs. Stukely soon joined me to communicate the contents of a letter she received at the same time; she found me in tears, for I fancied there was a something pro-

phetic in the strain of Somerset's letter, and was greatly affected by it; our kind mother too was much concerned. I gave Caroline my letter to read, her tears bedewed the paper. "Ah! my dear Madam," said she to Mrs. Stukely, "what satisfaction must you receive from the idea that the mind of this truly amiable young man has been formed to every virtue by the principles you early instilled." "I thank you, my dear Caroline, for your compliment; but remember, had not God been pleased to bless him with a good heart, my humble endeavours for his advantage would have been of no avail; he is indeed truly worthy, and his filial affection makes me most happy in him." Caroline perceiving how much we were depressed with a self-possession, which on such occasions she was eminent for exerting, wiped away her tears, rallied her spirits, and gaily requested that on his return Mrs. Stukely would use her influence with him in the disposal of his heart and hand, for she had resolved never to bestow her's on any other person, "And as I am not much disposed

for a life of celibacy, I hope you will persuade him not to be cruel." "Certainly, I will use my interest, but you must have the consent of the Earl." "Oh, that I do not fear; but suppose we walk down stairs, Blair will think himself quite deserted; really, Janetta, you use him very ill." "He is in good company my dear, and you know Lady Masters is fond of a red coat." "Then why do you move so fast towards the door? indeed, that action is quite inconsistent with the indifferent tone of your speech." "You are an unmerciful creature, but beware of the day of retaliation." We then descended, but neither our thoughts nor conversation wandered far from Somerset the remainder of the evening.

In the morning we called on Doctor Blair, and found Doctors Smollet and Armstrong with him; we learnt Mrs. Smollet was much indisposed, and should have driven to Chelsea to pay her a visit, had we not considered it would have been a mere matter of ceremony at that hour, as she never rose un-

til evening; a practice she persevered in notwithstanding the injury these preposterous hours evidently did to her health, and regardless of the remonstrances of her husband and mother; cards furnished the only amusement of her life, as she constantly had a select party, with whom she passed the night at the whist-table. The world reported that they were an unhappy couple, and it is but too probable that was the case, for where a woman makes no sacrifices of her own caprices to render the home of her husband agreeable to him, it is but reasonable to imagine he will seek amusement elsewhere, to the destruction of all domestic comfort.

Before we left the Doctor's he promised to pass the evening with us, and his brother attended us home; we found Mrs. Stukely busily engaged in perusing letters from Lady Amherst, acquainting her with their safe arrival at Santa Cruz. As she wrote by the first opportunity, she was not sufficiently acquainted with either the country or its

inhabitants to give us any account of them, but said, both she and her lord wished for Caroline and I, against whom she greatly inveighed for having refused her invitation. Amongst other information which she requested us to give her, was an account of Miss Talbot's marriage with her dear Sir Fopling, if it had taken place.

On Doctor Blair's arrival in the evening, he informed me my uncle was arrived at the Green; my heart sunk as I anticipated a summons to quit the dear society I at present enjoyed, even for a few days, for I hoped not to be longer detained at the Green. It was at all times disagreeable to me to be introduced to strangers, but I more particularly disliked the idea of it now that the strangers were relations, as I of course expected them to be more observant; and however uncongenial I might find them in disposition to myself, their near affinity to my father rendered attention and respect an absolute duty on my part. Lady Caroline inquired of the Doctor after the health of

the royal Chimney-Sweeper; and was informed he was much indisposed, and that Doctor Armstrong appeared to consider his health in a declining, indeed a hopeless, state: "But," added he, "he is very careless of his health, as most young people I believe are." "Yes," said Mrs. Stukely, "I think they are, at least I know a young lady who follows his example in that instance." Caroline acknowledged her consciousness by taking the allusion to herself; "But, my dear Madam, my life is of much less importance than that of the prince; there are but few to lament my loss, in comparison of those who would regret his." "Pray, Caroline," exclaimed I, "make your discourse on death as short as possible, for though I own it at times to be a salutary subject, it is just now rather too gloomy for my spirits, which I confess require elevating." "Then let us to the music-room," said Blair, "and you can raise them by obliging my brother with some of his favourite Scotch songs." We readily complied with his proposal, and amused ourselves at the

harpsichord until summoned to tea. The brothers did not take their leave until a late hour; they passed much of their time with us, and in their society the happy hours fled on silken wings; ah! how unlike the weary lagging moments I have since experienced!

At the breakfast-table next morning, I received the expected note from my aunt Walter, informing me that she should send the chariot for me on the following day, as my uncle Robert appeared anxious to see me; but what greatly surprised us all, she mentioned no letters from my father, either to Mrs. Stukely or myself. Though my selfish feelings were much mortified, yet I felt more severely his apparent ingratitude to the excellent woman, who for so many years had acted the part of a parent to his child, than for his slight to myself. She, however, excused him, and said verbal messages would answer every purpose, though it was evident her surprise at least equalled my own; her only fear, she said, was that

she should now be deprived of her dear Janetta's company, for as Mr. Walter Scott was going into Bedfordshire, it was but too probable my uncle Robert would chuse to have me entirely under his own direction until my father's arrival in England. "Oh! my dear Madam, I cannot bear the idea of quitting you; but even should they be so cruel as to desire it, they cannot deprive me of the affection I bear to the best of parents: to whom I shall next be consigned, Heaven only knows." "Well then, to end all suspense upon the subject," said Caroline, "let me have the pleasure of disposing of you; Blair would I think make an excellent guardian for life; therefore instead of going to the Green to-morrow morning, what say you to a trip to Scotland? I will accompany you, see your hands joined, return in triumph, and have the pleasure of acquainting them that you have chosen a protector for yourself: I am sure it is an excellent scheme in theory, let us order the chariot directly, seek for Blair, and I will venture to promise you he will not object to the

practice." "A pretty scheme truly, and one you would greatly approve if proposed by another; why, such advances would completely disgust him with the whole female race." "As I live here he comes, and since you are too diffident to speak for yourself, I will be charitable and do it for you." "My dear Caroline, if you have any regard for me do not make me look ridiculous in his eyes; what you intend as a mere joke, he may look upon as something more, and I have too much regard for him to wish to lose his esteem: be prudent I entreat you." "Well done, Dame Prudence!" was her reply, as Blair entered. "What! squabbling so early in the morning, ladies! let me be umpire." "And so you shall," said Caroline, looking triumphantly at me, "you must know the subject of our dispute—but she is such a termagant I dare not tell you, for I should dread her taking an opportunity of revenge." Though I could not seriously apprehend that she would inform him of what had passed, I was truly rejoiced

that the subject dropped without any further hint afforded concerning it.

Attended by Blair, we paid a visit to Mrs. Elliot, and thence drove to Lord Bute's. Lady Bute received us with her usual affection, and most cordially welcomed Blair to his native land: I told her of my intended visit to the Green next day, and its cause. She said, she must request Caroline to return home during my absence, which she hoped would not be of long continuance. I told her it was my uncle Walter's intention to go into Bedfordshire, as soon as his brother met with a house to suit him; and that both he and my aunt were very desirous Lady Caroline and I should accompany them, if her ladyship had no objection. "No, my dear girls, I know you will be happier together, therefore I shall give my free consent to the scheme." We thanked her for her kind compliance with our wishes; Lady Caroline was delighted with the idea of a country life, and told her mother when she was metamorphosed into a com-

plete rustic, she would send for her to see if she approved the change. Lady Bute replied, if her health altered with her outward appearance she should indeed be happy. "Oh, do not doubt it, my dear mother; but Janetta, what are we to make of Blair?" "Any thing your ladyship pleases, I dare say he will not refuse any occupation you propose to him." "Well, young man, what say you? do you think you can undertake the care of a flower-garden, without being tempted to pluck a rose when in full bloom?" "As there will be only two in the garden that will require my assiduous care, I will at least engage that no one shall rob them of a single leaf, provided I may be allowed to take one for myself." "Really, your request is so *singularly* modest it cannot be denied: you may depend on being in our service." "Well, good people," said I, "as I imagine you have now settled this business to your mutual satisfaction, suppose we return to Grosvenor-square, as we promised Mrs. Stukely so to do." We then took leave of Lady Bute, Caroline

telling her that Janetta would drop her at the door next morning in her way to the Green.

Mrs. Stukely being engaged in her dressing-room on our return, we left Mr. Blair to enjoy a tête-à-tête with Lady Masters, whilst we dispatched the affairs of the toilet: when we rejoined them, we found George Shrier of their party, whom we had not seen since our return from Portsmouth. We always considered his company an agreeable addition to our society, and were sorry to learn his brother had been very ill, and was still too much indisposed to leave home. Doctor Armstrong he said attended him. We expressed our surprise that he had not mentioned it when we met him at Doctor Blair's; "But," said I, "he is completely an absent man." "Yes, indeed," said Lady Caroline, "he sufficiently proved that a few weeks since, when seeing some one in the street he wished to speak to, he put his head out of the chariot window without letting down the glass, to the great dis-

composure of his face, which was shockingly cut." "Few people," I observed, "have in the circle of their acquaintance two mortals of this absent description, and yet Hume is equally so; he one day walked from his lodgings in Beaufort Buildings to the Duke of Argyle's without his hat, which he did not miss until he was going to take it off, as he supposed, in the Hall. His grace on hearing the circumstance, said, 'Well, never mind, as you are not come without your head, your company is acceptable.' It has often been a subject of surprise to me, that men of superior abilities should have this failing, since it certainly is one; but I suppose they consider trifles beneath their notice." "I rather think," said Blair, "in many instances their absence proceeds from an affectation of indifference to common forms, which they do not feel, but assume merely for the sake of singularity; we have sufficient proof that extreme learning does not produce it, since we often meet with those who possess it perfectly well-bred, which an absent man can never be."

The day being fine, we after dinner took a walk to Doctor Blair's, and were scarcely seated when his Royal Highness entered the room; after having inquired after his health, and learnt he was something better, we rose to depart; but he insisted that we should not shorten our visit on his account, and we were reseated. He took a chair next mine, and inquired after his Nosegay girl. I said she was very well, and would be much obliged to his Highness for his condescending inquiries. "I am informed by Lady Bute she has more judgment than any of the physicians who have attended her daughter, and frequently removes her complaints without the assistance of medicine; I should consider myself very happy could I procure her advice, and would strictly adhere to it. Lady Caroline, will you give me her address?" "Your Highness may frequently see, and always hear of her at my father's," she replied with a smile and glance towards me. Doctor Blair, said, "Though she does not make the practice of her profession in the healing art general, yet I know her nature

to be so humane that she is never happier than when she can alleviate the sorrows of her fellow-creatures." I bowed my thanks to him, and heartily tired of a conversation which so forcibly reminded me of all the disagreeables attending my masquerade amusement, proposed to return home.

Caroline, in giving Mrs. Stukely an account of the Duke's small talk, said, she did not think I appeared pleased with his conversation, which she could only account for by supposing I was piqued at being entertained with the merits of a Nosegay girl, without having one compliment paid to myself; to rid myself of her badinage, I asked Shrier if he had received letters by Captain Moet; and was told he had had the pleasure of hearing his parents were well, and of receiving their permission to remain longer in England. He had also received the wished-for intelligence, that the admired Sir Fopling, alias Mr. Forester, had led to the hymeneal altar the amiable Miss Talbot. "Oh, the dear creatures! what a happy couple

they will be!" said Caroline. "At all events," said Blair, "they cannot quarrel about superior wisdom, as neither of them possess any." "No," returned she, "I dare say they will be a very happy, loving, pair of insignificant mortals; as such let us leave them, and contrive some scheme for Janetta's speedy return from the Green, for I shall be quite at a loss for a companion." I told her it would be of service to her health to take an airing every day, and she might as well drive to the Green as elsewhere, and that I doubted not Shrier would be happy to be her escort; he readily and very gallantly accepted the office, and I rejoiced in the prospect of seeing them daily: I had always before gone to the Green with great pleasure, but the idea of the strangers I was to meet threw a damp over my spirits, for which I could not account. Blair intended to spend the time of my absence with his friend Captain Weller in Essex.

Before we retired to rest, Mrs. Stukely requested Caroline and I to accompany her

into her dressing-room, as she wished to converse with us alone; when we were seated, she thus addressed us, "The friendly regard I have with pleasure seen you bear to each other, my dear girls, from your earliest years, has taught me to consider you as sisters; and in now summoning you both here, I treat you as such, well convinced that my Janetta has no concealments from her Caroline." She then, directing her discourse to me, said, "The apparent mystery respecting your mother, my love, is a subject which has caused me much anxiety, and knowing how desirous you were to discover if you had any maternal relations, I have used every means that occurred to me to gain some information concerning her. I once began to interrogate your father himself, but he evaded my inquiry, and, seemingly displeased, walked away from the part of the room in which I sat; I of course dropped the subject, but was more than ever convinced that there was some secret attached to your birth. Your uncle Walter has told me that his brother never would

inform him of any thing concerning your mother, except that she was dead; at the same time observing he was the greatest oddity in the world, and never consulted any of his family on any thing but his mercantile affairs. Although you were consigned to the confidential care of my brother when quite an infant, on this subject he is in equal ignorance with ourselves. Knowing that Sir Harry Powlet is your father's most intimate friend, I one day addressed him on the subject; but he assured me that during his intimacy with Mr. Scott, neither in his sober or convivial moments, had he ever heard him mention either wife or mistress. 'All I do know,' said Sir Harry, 'is that his daughter is a devilish fine girl.' I felt proudly happy in telling him you were a very good one. Thus you see all my schemes for making discoveries have hitherto failed; but it strikes me that Mrs. Robert Scott, from having lived so many years in Madeira, is likely to be acquainted with the circumstances we wish to learn; I will therefore, if it is your desire, take the earliest

opportunity of interrogating her." I expressed my thanks for the unwearied pains she ever took to give me comfort, and begged she would make the application to my aunt, at the same time saying, "I cannot suppose it possible, my dear Madam, that I have a mother living, for surely the feelings of a parent towards so helpless an infant, as I was when I quitted my native country, would have induced her long since to have made some inquiry for her child, even should the discovery of my birth have involved her in disgrace; a circumstance, my father's silence on the subject has sometimes led me to fear." My friends both agreed with me in supposing my mother, whatever might have been the rank in life she filled, or the vicissitudes she had encountered, was now no more: and receiving a most affectionate blessing from her, who in so exemplary a manner had supplied her place, and a sisterly embrace from my dear Lady Caroline, I retired to bed with a mind too much occupied on the preceding conversation, and

in conjecturing the probable result of Mrs. Stukely's inquiries, to sleep.

Early the next morning, I left Lady Caroline in Pall-Mall, and proceeded to the Green, where I was received by Sutherland, who made the hall echo, with vociferating that Janetta was arrived. When the ceremony of introduction was over, I found that my anticipations had created for me much needless uneasiness, as I was received with great kindness by my stranger relatives; my uncle, who had not been in England since I was eight years old, was quite surprised at the alteration in my person, and as his stay at that period had been very short, I had not the least recollection of him. I learnt with pleasure that they had already taken a house at Camberwell, where it was their intention to reside, and my aunt very kindly begged me to consider it as my home. This I however declined, saying, that Mrs. Stukely's parental care of me had taught me to consider her house as my home, wherever my residence might be for a

time. She was glad, she said, to observe from the affection with which I spoke of Mrs. Stukely, that I had a grateful heart. I begged to see my little cousins, who were accordingly sent for: the youngest was a very fine boy of little more than two years old, and the eldest a girl named Ann, in her seventh year. She was one of the most interesting little creatures I ever met with, and rendered more particularly so by an appearance of extreme ill health, having strong consumptive symptoms: though so young, her patience under suffering was exemplary; she was very sweet tempered, and naturally cheerful, which was fully proved whenever her health would permit her to exert her spirits. I was very anxious to gain the affections of this amiable child, and had soon the pleasure of succeeding completely to my wish. I found that my uncle Robert and my two aunts proposed to spend the morning at the upholsterer's, as they were anxious to have their house furnished as speedily as possible. I requested permission to remain at home, and scribble a few lines to Caro-

line, which my aunt Walter readily granted, desiring me also to write to Mrs. Stukely, and invite both to spend the next day with her. As soon as they departed I sat down to address Caroline in the following terms:

"The ordeal I so much dreaded being over, I can now, my dear Caroline, give you a little account of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Scott, from whom, I have the pleasure to tell you, I met with a friendly reception. My aunt, though she does not appear to have much conversation, may still be called an agreeable woman; and if I may judge on so slight an acquaintance, from her manners I should think is good-hearted. My uncle is a lively good-natured man, totally different in appearance to my father; I find he still pursues his mercantile concerns in England, as he has taken a counting-house in the city. He tells me my father will shortly be in England, as he has declined business entirely, but further than that he is quite ignorant as to his affairs or plans. They have taken a

house at Camberwell, where they expect to be settled in the course of next week; my aunt Walter begs that you will do her the favour of accompanying Mrs. Stukely to-morrow to spend the day with us. I hope you will not incur my displeasure by refusing, nor yet keep me in suspense as to your intentions, but send me an answer by the servant. Make my best respects to Lady Bute, and in the pleasing hope of seeing you, I remain, dear Caroline,

your affectionate friend,

Janetta Scott."

My uncle and aunt Robert, after we had dined, set off to Camberwell to give some orders respecting their house; and having received favourable answers to the two letters I had dispatched, my aunt Walter and I, accompanied by Sutherland and little Ann, took a walk to visit the pensioners. At sight of my aunt they burst into tears; and on being asked the cause of their grief, said they had been informed they were going to lose their kind benefactress, their best and

only friend, and should now perhaps be reduced to ask relief from the parish. My aunt, however, made them quite happy on that score, assuring them that so long as she lived, they should not want the comforts they then enjoyed, if she possessed the means of bestowing them: for though she should not herself be near them, she would employ a confidential person to supply their little wants. Amidst their thanks and blessings we departed.

The next morning, spent in expectation of my dear friends, was tediously long to me; and to pass the dull hours I retired to the library, and taking down my favourite Sir Charles Grandison, lost myself and my expectations in the poor Clementina's woes, until roused by Mrs. Stukely's chariot stopping at the door. I hastened to the hall to receive our guests, and was agreeably surprised to see George Shrier alight, and hand the ladies from the carriage. "You observe, Janetta, I have not come without my beau," said Lady Caroline; "though you did not

think fit to invite him; but he was true to his promise." "You know, my dear," I replied, "an introduction from you would insure a welcome to any one here; and George we always regard as one of the family." We then walked into the drawing-room, and after having been introduced to Mrs. Stukely, my aunt Robert advanced to Lady Caroline, and said, she had received the commands of my father to present his affectionate regards, sealed with a kiss, to Lady Caroline Stewart, the first opportunity; adding, as she kissed her cheek, "My brother is so warm, that were he to find on his arrival I had not obeyed him, I should be in sad disgrace, and no doubt meet with exemplary punishment."

Anxious that Mrs. Stukely should have an opportunity of conversing with my aunt on the interesting subject she proposed, Caroline and I withdrew to the garden. "I hope my aunt will be able to satisfy us all as to the circumstances of my birth; and should it prove unfortunate, as I sometimes

dread it may, yet I know the discovery will not deprive me of the friendship of my beloved mother, or of my Caroline!" "Nor of any one else, whose regard is worth retaining, my dear Janetta; you have a striking instance of it in the general esteem bestowed upon Somerset, whose illegitimacy the Earl his father never attempted to conceal. I understand his mother was seduced by the Earl when very young, and that he was extremely anxious to marry her, but could not obtain the consent of his parents. She lived but a short time after the birth of her son; and the Earl, on going abroad, committed him to the care of Mrs. Stukely, from whom you know he experienced equal tenderness and affection with yourself." Our conversation was here broken off by the appearance of Shrier, who came in search of us. We sauntered about till summoned to the nursery by Ann, who entreated us to go see the pretty baby-house her aunt had bought for her. Caroline and I complied with her request, and in her innocent prattle, I lost much of the anxiety I felt to know

the result of the conversation in the drawing-room.

After dinner we went into the music-room, and with the assistance of Shrier's flute, Caroline and I obtained much applause for our singing. Before tea was announced, I had the satisfaction of learning that the matron ladies had agreed for us to return home with Mrs. Stukely; and when my uncle and aunt Robert were settled at Camberwell, we were again to visit the Green, and remain with Mrs. Walter Scott until she left town. We were so well pleased with this arrangement that we returned home in high spirits. Shrier was anxious to see his brother, and took leave immediately on our arrival in Grosvenor-square, which, favourite as he was, I did not regret, being extremely desirous to hear if Mrs. Stukely had received any information from my aunt Robert. I had the mortification to learn that she, like every other friend to whom we had applied, was in total ignorance of the circumstances of my birth; she told

Mrs. Stukely my father's violent temper had always deterred her from interrogating him on a subject on which he was so reserved; for if asked any question unpleasing to himself, he would swear and storm until every one in the house was uncomfortable. My uncle said the violence of his disposition was only to be equalled by its fickleness, as he had proved by accepting the office of Consul, and then immediately signifying his intention of leaving Madeira. This my last hope of information, respecting so interesting a circumstance, having failed, I was compelled to relinquish all hope of discovery, and remain content in uncertainty; satisfied with the possession of many valuable friends.

As Lady Bute had requested Lady Caroline's company at home for some time, she prevailed on Mrs. Stukely to allow me to accompany her the following day to Pall-Mall, there to remain until summoned to perform our promise to my aunt Walter. Lady Bute had been so long alone, she rejoiced greatly in our company: Lady Mary

was still absent, nor did she intend to return until all the arrangements for her marriage with Sir James Lowther were completed; the ceremony was to be performed in town, and as the consent of all parties had been gained, it was expected very shortly to take place. Caroline had just told her mother with what a rod of iron I had governed her, that she might not endanger her health in her last visit to Mrs. Stukely's; and acknowledged that my prudent management had preserved her from any return of illness, when Doctor Blair was announced.

After the first compliments to himself, Lady Bute inquired after the health of the Duke of York. "So much better," answered he, "that he is going to-night to Drury-Lane theatre, as are most of the royal family; it is Mrs. Cibber's benefit, and his Highness has desired me to request your ladyship's acceptance of tickets from him for yourself, Lady Caroline, and Miss Scott, with his compliments." Lady Bute said she should obey the Prince's orders

with pleasure; Caroline and I were delighted with the idea of seeing the admired tragedy of Douglas; and a servant was dispatched to engage a front box for us. Soon after Doctor Blair left us, Admiral Boscawen called, and informed us that it was the intention of Lord Eglinton, Sir George Pocock, and himself, to attend us to the theatre in the evening, if we would allow of their escort.

The house was so full, it was with difficulty we could get to the box Lord Bute's servant was keeping for us: we were scarcely seated before the Royal party entered; it consisted of His Majesty, the Princess Dowager, the Prince of Wales, Princess Augusta, and the Duke of York, who immediately on his arrival took out his glass to survey the company. There was so small a space of the stage left for the performers, (it being completely boxed round) that they could scarcely make their entrances or exits; the scenery could not be shifted, and when Lady Randolph began her soliloquy

in the wood, " Ye woods and wilds, whose melancholy gloom, &c." not the semblance of a tree was visible. After the first act, the Duke came to our box, paid his compliments to Lady Bute, and then chatted with Caroline and I for some time in his usual strain of gallantry.

The heat of the house was so intolerable that we were glad to quit it before the entertainment began; the gentlemen of our party remained to sup with us, and we passed a most agreeable evening. Sir George's raillery was a continual annoyance to me, but Lady Caroline exerted her authority to keep him within bounds. In the morning, my friend found herself much indisposed, we resolved to pass a quiet day at home, and accordingly seated ourselves to assist Lady Bute with some grotto work, which at that time formed her morning amusement, when a servant announced the Duke of York and Doctor Blair; we would gladly have excused ourselves from appearing, but Lady Bute insisted on our paying our respects to him;

he called to inquire after our health; the heat of the house had occasioned many ladies to faint, and knowing how often Lady Caroline was an invalid, he feared she might be amongst the number. When our royal visitor took leave, I prevailed on Caroline to lie down, and I read to Lady Bute while she pursued her work; we had only been thus engaged a short time, when the Misses Elliot made their appearance. I was requested to receive them, and their conversation furnished me with abundant topics to amuse Caroline for the rest of the day, as they told me many anecdotes of our mutual acquaintances; amongst the rest, they informed me that Miss Pasely was going to Dantzic to reside with her brother, who was Consul there.

At dinner, Lady Bute was greatly amused at what she called my management of Caroline, since she eat of what I recommended, and only of that. A few days of quiet restored my friend to her usual health; and we received the expected summons from

the Green; on our arrival we found my aunt Robert there, and that it was the intention of my uncle and aunt Walter to leave town in a day or two, having already sent all the servants that could be spared into Bedfordshire. My aunt Robert insisted that they should return with her to Camberwell, and remain there, until they heard from the housekeeper all was ready for their reception at Aspley. Accordingly, we all took leave of Mile-End Green in the evening, and as my aunt Walter, in going to Camberwell, lost the plea of loneliness, by which she would have retained Caroline and I, we prevailed on them to leave us at Lord Bute's. On entering the drawing-room, we were agreeably surprised to find Lady Bute accompanied by Captain Weller and Blair; the former intending to return home that night very soon took his leave, the latter remained the rest of the evening with us. He was charged with many compliments from Mrs. Weller, and her niece Miss Brook; who he said was as fat as an Essex calf. "And if she be as well furnished with

brains," said I, "you have found her a charming companion." "There certainly has been something very fascinating in the young lady," said Caroline, "or his absence would not have been of such duration; pray, did you grant such long leave, Janetta?" "Really, Lady Caroline, he did not make me of sufficient consequence to solicit me on the occasion." "Worse and worse; why, Blair, unless you can say something in your defence you will be superseded." "My defence is simply this, I met with a little accident from having mounted an unruly horse; and having sprained my ancle, was unable to walk for some days; I therefore thought it better to remain where I was than to annoy you with the sight of a cripple." "Why, really, it would have been rather distressing; I hope, Miss Scott, you will pardon him." "Certainly, Lady Caroline, as it is your request, and I am unconscious of having received offence." I was happy to see that her little excursion to my uncle's did not appear to have fatigued her, but had rather had the happy effect of

exhilirating her spirits. Blair quitted us immediately after supper, with a promise of waiting on us again in the morning; my aunt had likewise proposed calling to take leave of Lady Bute; she made her appearance at rather an early hour, having many visits to pay. She expressed much gratitude to Lady Bute for the kind attention she paid to me; and obtained her ladyship's promise to pay her a long visit in the summer.

After sitting an hour, she requested Caroline and I to accompany her to Mrs. Stukely's, where we met with our usual cordial welcome. Lady Masters was from home, and Mrs. Stukely wished us to spend the day with her; but my aunt had too many visits on her list, and we had promised to return to Pall-Mall, Lady Bute being quite alone. My aunt and Mrs. Stukely took a most affectionate leave of each other, the latter promising to accompany Lady Bute into Bedfordshire in the summer. We next proceeded to Captain Elliot's, where we had

fresh reason to admire the ladies of the family, since we found them busily and cheerfully employed in plain work, to add to those slender means the dissipation of the Captain afforded for their subsistence. My aunt made Mrs. Elliot a parting present, and in the kindest terms requested her to pass some time with her in the country. She then set us down in Pall-Mall; we had the pleasure to find Lady Bute had not been solitary in our absence, as we found her tête-à-tête with Mr. Blair; we apologized for interrupting them so abruptly, and were flying out of the room, when he seized a hand of each and led us to a chair; Lady Bute congratulated Caroline on her gaiety, and said, "When you entered, we were conversing on a very serious subject." "So I thought, my dear Madam, I therefore drew back, knowing that love is too interesting a theme to be interrupted." "Pray, have you ever been in love then, Caroline?" said I—"Oh! yes, all my life, but never dared let the object of my affections know it, lest the attachment should not be reciprocal: to

avoid such perplexities, I think it would be a mark of prudence in our sex, not to confine their love to one object, what say you, Janetta?" Her eyes were fixed on Blair, and my conscience would not allow me to acquiesce in her declared opinion; we therefore began a lively squabble, which greatly amused Lady Bute; Blair, however, declared himself an enemy to all bickering, and to put an end to ours, proposed a drive to Mr. Moffat's to inquire after the health of William Shrier; the chariot was accordingly ordered.

We found that the invalid was nearly recovered, and gone for a few days to the seat of a friend at Turnham Green. We prevailed on George to return with us and spend the day. We seldom passed an afternoon without music, and his flute was ever a most welcome addition to our concert: we sometimes played at cards out of compliment to Lady Bute, who was fond of a rubber; but when released, we returned with double relish to our favourite amusement.—

Shortly after this period, we were engaged to spend the day at Camberwell, to take leave of my uncle and aunt Walter: with what delight do we receive the embrace of a friend who has long been absent, but how bitter is the contrast of our feelings when bidding adieu to those we love! from Mrs. Walter Scott I ever received the kindest attention and friendship, and at this distant period I retain a grateful and affectionate remembrance of her. Lady Caroline had been up some time before me, and impatient at my delay, she aroused me from one of the sweetest slumbers I had ever enjoyed. Fancy had transported me into a delightful shady grove, where I was met by a lady elegantly, but simply, attired in white; she was tall and very beautiful; her appearance interested me greatly; when she approached nearer to me she suddenly stopped, earnestly regarded me, and at length clasping me in her arms, she burst into tears, and exclaimed, "Oh! my child, my child, my Janetta, have I at last discovered thee?" —at this moment my friend awaked me, I

told her how much I lamented the interruption, and felt my mind so strongly impressed by this phantom of my sleeping imagination, that Caroline abundantly rallied before she could rouse me into my usual vivacity.

We found Blair in the breakfast room; "I believe you are not a vocal performer," said she, "or I should have imagined you had been serenading some one in the house, by seeing you so early." "Then, fair lady, for once you would have erred, since my only design and hope in coming here this morning, was to have the pleasure of escorting you to Camberwell." Immediately after breakfast we repaired to my uncle's, where we were most cordially welcomed, and as it was our first visit, we were conducted over the house and grounds: the former was most delightfully situated, a fine avenue led to the entrance; in front of the house was a pavement of black and white marble; on each side was a grass-plot profusely adorned with beautiful flowering

shrubs, and the statues of Apollo and Diana. On entering the hall we were struck with the beauty of the staircase, the ceiling of which was supposed to be the finest painting of the kind in England; the device was from the seige of Troy. Lady Caroline was delighted with it, and desired Blair would particularly observe how the warriors threw their darts, that he might copy from their dexterity. "I would much rather receive instructions from your ladyship, that I might successfully pierce a lady's heart; and would you take me under your tuition, should consider myself more obliged to you than you can imagine." "Janetta, do you hear Blair? he is desirous of fixing a wound in the heart of some poor defenceless woman! did you ever meet with such a savage?" "I cannot say I ever did, and since he has been incautious enough to betray himself, let us be prudent, and retire to more innocent company." So saying we repaired to the nursery, where we were rapturously received by my little favourite Ann, whose health I was concerned to find in the same

precarious state as on their first arrival; I took her down stairs, and the child's happiness added to mine.

After a cheerful day we took an affectionate leave of my uncle and aunt, and returned to Pall-Mall, where after having given Lady Bute an account of the house and grounds, we entered into a somewhat serious conversation with Blair relative to his own concerns; it was a subject of much interest to me; I ardently wished for his preferment, and was anxious to know if it were his intention to return to India, which, I feared, would be the consequence of that elevation of rank I still desired for him. So complicated are the affairs of this life, that one wish of our hearts continually opposes another, for the attainment of which, we are equally desirous! and yet, blind erring mortals that we are! we hesitate to resign ourselves with patient submission to the decrees of that Almighty Disposer of events, who alone knows what is good for man! But to return to our conversation, in which I learnt that my

friend had no offer or present hope of preferment. Lady Bute inquired if he purposed to return to India? "I think I shall." "Surely not, unless you are preferred," said I, forgetting at that moment the sentiments I had often heard him express on the subject. "At present I have no objection," he replied, "but were I raised to a higher rank, I might perhaps be more unwilling to go." "This appears to me a paradox; do account to me for it." "Since you require an explanation I will give it; were I promoted, it would be the first wish of my heart to marry the object of my choice; but I could never bear the idea that the woman who possessed an affection for me that could induce her to honour me with her hand, should descend from that station in life she had been accustomed to fill, to become the wife of a subaltern!" Caroline immediately gave him her hand, "That is a noble sentiment, Blair, I admire you more than ever; is it too great a favour to acquaint us with the object who inspired it?" "At present it would be highly improper." "Oh dear! it is me!" said

she, smiling, "and diffidence prevents your speaking out." "Pardon my candour, Lady Caroline, when I confess you are mistaken; I never was possessed of vanity or ambition sufficient to aspire to a title." "Then pray, Sir, give me my hand again," Lady Bute and I had been highly amused by the latter part of this conversation, and were still more so when she walked up to us and told her ladyship, she was quite surprised to see her in such excellent spirits in consequence of her daughter's mortification. "Did you not observe the gentleman return the hand I had given him? and really, Janetta, you are most cruel thus to exult over me because my title has deprived me of an expected lover; but if ever again you address me as Lady Caroline, rest assured I will not answer you; the Captain's Lady is far prettier, and who knows but I may yet captivate a Captain!" Then perceiving her mother still in an immoderate fit of laughter, "Well, my dear Madam, I will say no more about it, lest you should injure your health by these tittering convulsions!" When Blair took his leave,

she said, "Well, Janetta, if the Lieutenant does not speak out, he at least gives you tolerably broad hints of what you may expect." "How so? he did not allude to me in any thing he said." "No! to whom then? you are very sensible, even from his own confession, it was not to me." "But he may have many connexions of whom I am ignorant." "Oh dear, you have very little understanding; pray, my dear, do you know your alphabet?" "I believe so." "Then you could not mistake his meaning: were he in a station to support you according to his wishes, he would certainly marry you." "With, or without, my consent, pray?" "Why, really, I have not thought of that, and as in my waking moments I cannot imagine it, I will go to bed, and dream of the aspect you will wear when you refuse him."

In this dear and happy society, and cheerful manner, some months of my life passed away without any occurrence worth remarking, during which time, Blair was the constant companion of Lady Caroline and myself; and by his uniform attention and

steady friendship fixed the interest he had long possessed in my heart into an attachment which neither time nor circumstance could ever obliterate. It is true he had made me no absolute declaration of love, but judging from his character, I felt secure of his affection from his conduct, and was most happy in the security. During the course of my acquaintance with Blair, I found him no frothy coxcomb, but a sensible, instructive companion; plain and open in the delivery of his sentiments, kind and honest-hearted in his actions.

I had been some time with my friends in Pall-Mall, when one morning, Lady Caroline and I, on descending to the breakfast parlour, at our usual time, were surprised to find Blair in close conversation with Lady Bute. There was an expression something beyond seriousness on the countenances of both, which excited our alarm: evident uneasiness on their part, and on ours anxiety to know the cause, made our meal a short one: when the breakfast equipage was re-

moved, what was my consternation to learn the distressing tidings which had arrived from Minorca, relative to Admiral Byng; and the melancholy fears they excited in the minds of those friends who had heard the intelligence. Blair knew not if my beloved Mrs. Stukely was yet informed of it, and Caroline and I immediately determined to pay her a visit, whilst he went to his brother's in hopes of learning farther particulars, where we promised to call for him on our return from Grosvenor-square.

We found my beloved Mrs. Stukely and Lady Masters at home without company; we instantly discovered by the cheerful manner in which we were received, that they were unacquainted with any cause of alarm. The perturbation of our minds was too great to allow us for any length of time to preserve an appearance of cheerfulness, and anxious to see Doctor Blair, in the hope of receiving some intelligence which might alleviate our fears, we very soon took leave of the sisters, and drove to Leicester-square: the

Doctor informed us that the Admiral would immediately be recalled, and a court-martial held to determine his fate: he bade us hope that the elucidation of his conduct would prove favourable, and exhorted me not to give way to unavailing anticipations of evil which might never arrive. After having received his promise to spend the evening with us, we returned to Lord Bute's, accompanied by his brother. To Lady Bute's instant inquiries after Mrs. Stukely, we replied, that she was evidently in ignorance at present, that she had mentioned Sir George Pocock's not having called on her, and attributed it to indisposition; but we imagined his absence was occasioned by his reluctance to be the bearer of such unhappy tidings. "But," observed Lady Bute, "it is impossible for her long to remain in ignorance, it will doubtless soon find its way into the newspapers." "Oh!" exclaimed I, bursting into tears, "what a storm is impending over her head! it will be more than she is able to bear; I know her affection for the Admiral is of the tenderest nature, and

am certain she cannot survive this shock: I shall lose in her the best of parents." Blair pressed me in his arms, "Janetta, do not thus distress yourself and me; I cannot bear to see you unhappy; besides, you are grieving for that which may never arrive; let me entreat you to summon more fortitude, all may yet be well; nothing is proved against him." Soothed by his affection, and that of Lady Caroline, who made use of every expression the tenderest friendship could suggest to comfort me; and convinced by Lady Bute's stronger arguments, exhorting me to place my trust and hope in Heaven.

Before Doctor Blair arrived in the evening, I had attained a tolerable degree of composure. Caroline made evident exertions to draw me into cheerfulness, and I endeavoured to repay her kindness by joining in the lively conversation she engaged in with the Doctor. "William," said he, addressing his brother, "you were three years in India, and in all that time could not find a wife,

but Miss Craigs has met with immediate success in her speculation, for she is absolutely married to a Nabob: the ceremony was performed by the chaplain of the ship, now arrived in England." We all hoped that her sister, Mrs. Moffat, who very much disapproved of her going out, would now be reconciled to it; and as we had always thought her a very amiable young woman, most sincerely wished her happy. After the gentlemen took leave of us, Lady Bute said, "The Doctor is certainly a most agreeable companion, and is I believe equally esteemed as such by young and old." "I have frequently observed that learned men are dull, absent companions," said I, "but he is not in that class." "I have made the same observation, Janetta," said Lady Caroline, "and in the circle of our acquaintance, there is Hume, for instance, I am generally obliged to pinch him before I receive an answer to my questions." Lady Bute feeling herself extremely unwell, we all retired early to our chambers; the company of my friends had supported my spirits dur-

ing the evening, but when alone, my feelings again overpowered me; and, after a night of uneasy slumbers, interrupted by fearful dreams, I arose early; the first object presented to my sight was Errington in tears: "Oh! Miss Janetta, my dear Madam is very ill, she read the newspaper last night, and there was some very bad news I suppose about the Admiral, I don't know what, but I'm afraid he's killed, Miss." "No, nurse, they have not yet had an engagement." "Well, my lady sent for Sir George, and he came and comforted her a little, but she will see nobody but us that wait about her: she desired her dear Janetta might not know of her troubles, for Madam said it would kill you, my dear Miss, and so I stole away on purpose to tell you; and now you can do as you please." I thanked her for coming to me, and desired her not to say that she had seen me, but to leave it to Sir George and me to endeavour to comfort her. "Well, dear Miss Janetta, he is not dead, thank God! and I shall live in hopes Madam will soon get better, but I must make

haste home now, for fear she should want me;" and then the affectionate faithful creature hurried away.

When Caroline came down, I told her of my visitor, and her errand; she advised that as soon as Blair came, we should request him to go in search of Pocock, that we might learn if in the present state of Mrs. Stukely's mind, he thought my presence would be most likely to alleviate or add to her distress. Blair came in on the instant, and readily consented to call on Sir George; we detained him to breakfast, that we might hear Lady Bute's opinion; it coincided with Caroline's: we had the satisfaction to find her ladyship much better than on the preceding evening, and as soon as our morning's repast was finished, Blair left us in pursuit of Sir George, who after a short time returned with him. After much conversation, it was at length concluded by my friends that I was the most improper person in the world to visit my dear Mrs. Stukely; for as my distress nearly equalled her

own, we should but add to each other's affliction. As Lady Masters and she were little competent to comfort each other, Sir George requested Lady Bute to call on them, and endeavour to persuade them of the probability that their brother would be honourably acquitted, although he must undergo the painful suspense of a trial.

Her ladyship's chariot was immediately ordered, and the gentlemen agreed to wait her return. I asked Sir George what was his real opinion as to the result of the dreaded trial. "It is impossible to say, I do not as yet know what will be alledged against him; all we can do is to fortify our minds with patience and resignation to wait the event." "And how does Lady Torrington bear the shock?" "She is greatly affected indeed, as every one who love him must be." After partaking of some wine and sweetmeats which Caroline had ordered, we walked in the garden till Lady Bute's return, and then hastened in to learn how she had found our beloved friend. "She

was," said she, "in much affliction of course, but Doctor Blair has been with her, and she acknowledges her feelings to be more calmed by his friendly admonitions than they have been since her first shock on reading the newspaper. I used every argument I was mistress of to revive her spirits, and hope I have in some measure succeeded. I asked if she wished to have Janetta with her: she shook her head, and answered, 'No, I know her feelings are too accute to give me any relief, and the sight of my distress will only add to her own.' Mrs. Boscawen intends to visit her to-morrow, and I know no one more capable of administering comfort. When I next see her I trust she will be more composed, and able to converse with less emotion." We conversed for some time on this subject, for painful as it was, it was more interesting than any other. We all regretted the long season of suspense we must endure, since the charge against him would not be known until his arrival in England.

During our conversation, Lady Caroline left the room, and shortly after she had quitted it sent to request my company in her dressing-room. She presented me with a newspaper, and pointed to a paragraph which she desired me to read. Impossible as it is for me to describe it, the reader may imagine my astonishment, when in a list of passengers arrived at the Isle of Wight, in a ship from Madeira, I read, 'John Scott, esquire, his lady and suite!' "Surely," said I, "misfortune has lately marked me for its own." "We must not wonder at any thing done by your father," said Caroline. She then sent her woman to desire Blair would join us, which he immediately did: on his entrance I gave him the paper, saying, "My father is married!" "The deuce he is!" exclaimed he, "and deranged too I should think." "Surely he has written to my uncle, to acquaint him of his arrival, that he may find accommodation for himself and his lady." Caroline proposed going immediately to Camberwell, in hopes of gaining further intelligence; and after

informing Lady Bute of what we had seen, (who exclaimed against him for what she termed his imprudent conduct, and called him an unaccountable man) we ordered the chariot, and attended by Blair set off for my uncle's.

We found my aunt alone, and immediately communicated to her the surprise we had experienced: "Has my father written to you of his arrival?" I asked. "No, unless your uncle receives a letter to-day," she answered; "he will be at home at dinner, and then we shall hear; how ridiculous of my brother not to inform us he was coming, I cannot possibly prepare for them as I could otherwise have wished." My uncle returned home somewhat earlier than we expected, in high spirits at the arrival of my cousin James Dewar, who was first mate of an Indiaman: this was much more pleasing intelligence to me than that the newspaper had conveyed of the addition to our family. My uncle had received no letter from my father, but had seen by the papers

that he was arrived. "I am sure," said my aunt, "I know not how to prepare for them." "Pray," said he, "give yourself no trouble about it, let them take us as they find us, only remember James shall have the best bed; and if you have any scarcity, let the groom sleep with the coachman, and they may take his, it is good enough for a fool!" this speech excited the laughter of all but myself, but I was too deeply mortified to join in it; Dewar had promised my uncle to be at Camberwell to dine, I was rejoiced at having so early an opportunity of seeing him; he was a very worthy young man, and his cheerfulness and good-nature made him an universal favourite among us.

Lady Caroline and I left Blair to converse with my uncle, and with my dear little Ann took a ramble in the grounds, where we were soon joined by Dewar, who met me with the same kind affection he had ever shown towards me. We passed a most comfortable day, being quite *en famille*; my aunt promised that in a day or two after my

father's arrival she would send Dewar for me. We took an early leave, as Lady Bute expected us at tea; we found Mrs. Boscawen with her ladyship, who had called on her return from Mrs. Stukely's; she had left her more composed than she had been the preceding day.

They had fully discussed the topic of my father's marriage and return, which had drawn her ideas from the contemplation of a more melancholy subject. Mrs. Boscawen told me she exclaimed against the step with much indignation, as being likely to injure her poor Janetta; of whom, with her usual partiality, she spoke in the highest terms. "And," added Mrs. Boscawen, "when I left her, I had the satisfaction to see this subject entirely engrossed her thoughts; for bad as it may be, it is certainly a relief in the present state of her mind." "I sincerely wish," said I, "the ceremony of introduction to the lady of my father's choice was over, for I must confess I greatly dread it." "Oh! never give it a thought,"

said Caroline, "what would your father have said, had he heard your uncle's offer of the groom's bed?" "He would certainly have set fire to the house, and suffered none to escape but himself and deary," answered I; "but I have understood that my uncle Robert has a greater influence over him than any one." "Aye," said Blair, "but you must expect to see your father greatly altered, you may rely upon it he will now be under petticoat government, and as docile as a spaniel."

A short time now only elapsed before they made their appearance at Camberwell; on the day following their arrival, Dewar called to inform us of it: he described Mrs. Scott, as a tall, showy, dark woman; he said, "She has but a poor address, as yet I have only heard her speak in monosyllables; and, if I have any discrimination, she will not choose you for her companion, Janetta, unless she has the power to rob you of your vivacity." "That, I trust, she will never do," exclaimed Caroline and Blair at the same moment.

"Fear it not, for rather than be subject to her command, I would run away with the first man who asked me!" they all laughed heartily at my declaration. "But," said Lady Bute, "are you not all a little hasty in forming your judgments? she is a stranger to us all, we may very possibly, when we become acquainted, find her possessed of many good qualities." "Be assured, my dear Madam, when I see her, I shall endeavour to discover them for my own comfort's sake." On taking leave of us, James said he should come again in a day or two, when I must return with him to be introduced.

As I was not summoned on the morrow, I had the pleasure of hearing Lady Bute and Mrs. Boscawen's account of my dear Mrs. Sukely, with whom they passed the day; the violent grief she had felt on the first shock had greatly subsided, and she appeared now to wait the event of her brother's trial with patient placidity. My father's marriage had again been the theme

of their conversation; they all highly condemned it, and Mrs. Stukely thought the disparity in his lady's age made it still more unpardonable, particularly as he had a daughter old enough to be his companion. She lamented the probability there was of my being entirely removed from her protection, and placed under the direction of a mother-in-law: but Lady Bute told her, she thought I should oppose that with some spirit, and excited a smile from her by relating my declaration on the preceding evening.

The next morning my cousin came with my aunt's request for my attendance; during our ride, he exerted himself to amuse me, by calling my attention to indifferent subjects; but my heart beat quick with apprehensive emotion; nor could I divest myself of the idea that my father had not sent for me himself, consequently I could not hope for an affectionate reception from him. On alighting from the carriage, I was most happy to find my aunt alone, my father and

Mrs. Scott both being at their toilets; the time they allowed us to converse happily served to tranquillize my spirits; and when they entered the room, I advanced towards them, and with tolerable composure welcomed them to England. My father received me with his usual sang froid, and his lady with a mixture of hauteur and formality that promised me no warmth of friendship in my new relative. He inquired after Lord Bute's family, particularly Lady Caroline, and then proposed a walk in the garden; Mrs. Scott was probably fearful that I should engage him in a tête-à-tête conversation, for she was evidently disconcerted when he quitted her side for a moment; I endeavoured to draw her into conversation, but as her answers were confined only to monosyllables, I went to fetch little Ann, whom I found an infinitely more amusing companion for the remainder of our walk.

On returning to the house, we found my uncle, who soon engaged my father in a conversation relative to a house in Great Marl-

borough street, lately occupied by Lord Onslow, which was to be let. He said he would go in the afternoon and make some inquiries about it, and Mrs. Scott said she would take a ride with him; a polite mode of telling me she was not particularly happy in my company; but as she did not ask my aunt to accompany her, I was extremely well satisfied with the arrangement. My aunt told me she feared she would prove no acquisition to the family; time alone could verify or contradict her apprehension; she was an American by birth, her maiden name was Hill, how little reason I had to rejoice at her changing it, will be fully discovered in the course of these memoirs.

They returned to tea, with the information that they had taken the house, and should purchase that part of the furniture which remained in it. I rejoiced to find they would so soon have a house to themselves, though I sincerely hoped I should not be one of its inhabitants, and to my great satisfaction received no hint that such

was their wish. The lady was now furnished with a subject of conversation, in enumerating the articles of furniture she should want, and learning the most fashionable places for procuring them. Miss Smith, who was an antiquated maiden sister of my aunt, offered to accompany her at any time, which politeness being graciously received, we took our coffee. I then reminded Dewar that he must escort me home; when I rose to take leave, Mrs. Scott said, I must go and see them when they were settled; "Certainly, Madam, if you desire it." I then entered the carriage, and soon rejoiced to find myself again in Pall-Mall, where I had the comfort to learn that Doctor Blair had been with Mrs. Stukely, and found her in better spirits than he could have hoped; he thought if I could command my feelings, I might be permitted to see her, but advised me not to go until she requested it. I told Lady Caroline how particularly my father had inquired after her, "I could willingly have said, you were sick of antiquated folly, but fearful I might have

a pistol discharged at my head, I quietly told him you were much better. Dewar gave so just a description of Mrs. Scott I will not repeat it, only he omitted to tell us that she never looks at any one but from the corner of her eye, which gives to her countenance a designing cast, not very prepossessing. They have taken Lord Onslow's house in Great Marlborough street, and Madam is going to be very busy purchasing furniture, attended by Miss Smith, of whom she appears very fond; I dare say she thinks her homely person an excellent foil to her own brilliancy." "My dear Janetta," said James, "do pray stop to breathe, you must be mightily pleased with your new mamma, to talk of her so long, I have been wishing to introduce a better subject for the last half hour, which was, to request Lady Caroline and yourself to take a drive to Woolwich tomorrow, as before the ship is cleared I can show you many curiosities." Caroline's dread of the water made her hesitate in consenting to this proposal, but we at length prevailed on her to comply with our wishes.

She had just acceded to our request when Blair entered, and Dewar begged he would be our escort, as he was himself under the necessity of being early on board. This point settled he left us.

We found Mr. Blair had seen Mrs. and Miss Elliot; I eagerly inquired if they had heard from Gilbert, as I had long been anxiously expecting letters from my dear Somerset, they had not been more fortunate. I asked Blair if he supposed John had heard the unfortunate news from Minorca? Undoubtedly, he thought, long before it reached England, as the Admiral had retired to Gibraltar, near which place Somerset was stationed. Caroline, anxious to change the subject, wished it might prove fine in the morning, as, were it not for the water part of the excursion, she should be quite delighted with the jaunt to Woolwich, she was so tired of town. I reminded her that summer would soon arrive, when we hoped to spend some time with my uncle and aunt Walter in Bedfordshire. The next day

proving favourable to our wishes, we spent very pleasantly at Woolwich, and returned home loaded with presents; Dewar gave each of us a beautiful China fan, and begged Lady Caroline would chuse one for her mother. He then shewed us a magnificent five-leaved screen which he intended to present to Lady Bute, and a set of elegant china, which, with a complete set of dressing-boxes, were intended for my new mamma. As we were returning from Woolwich, he informed us he had learnt it was my father's intention, as soon as they were settled in Marlborough street, to present his bride at court. This intelligence served Caroline and I for conversation long after we arrived in Pall-Mall; "I wonder how she will conduct herself in the presence of Majesty, for she does not enter a private drawing-room tolerably; I should be sorry to be her companion." Blair did not join in any of our remarks, but appeared in profound reverie, "I fancy, Blair, you must be studying to discover perpetual motion," said Lady Caroline, "I cannot draw an

answer from you at all." "My thoughts were more pleasantly employed than you imagine, but I hope your ladyship will pardon my inattention." "And pray, what was the pleasing object which thus engrossed you?" "Truly, Lady Caroline, your fair self." "Janetta, my dear, do you hear that? if you do not make use of all your artillery, I shall certainly out-general you; but let me look in the glass; well, I certainly am tolerable; oh! I shall still be the Captain's lady." "I must confess it is rather mortifying that I am not fair, but there is no accounting for taste you know, and Blair grew tired of brunettes, perhaps, from seeing so many when in India." "I am sure, Janetta, it is needless now to tell you that I admire only the beauties of the mind." Caroline instantly left the glass, where she had been exhibiting an appearance of the most ludicrous affectation, completely foreign to her nature, with, "It is time for me to advance I find, the enemy gains ground." The entrance of Lady Bute interrupted her badinage.

Lady Bute and Mrs. Boscawen continued the daily visitors of my dear Mrs. Stukely; she remained in a placid tranquillity, but so much dreaded the agitation an interview with me would occasion us both, that she could not prevail on herself to see me. None but her dearest and most intimate friends were admitted. As the house my father had taken was nearly complete for the reception of a family when he first saw it, the necessary additions to the furniture were very soon made, and a short time saw them fixed in their new residence.

On the day after she had received Dewar's elegant present, and two days previous to her appearance at court, Lady Caroline and I paid her a morning visit; she was seated on a sofa with a young girl of the name of Pleder, whom she had engaged as her companion. It was easy to discover the reigning passion of my mother-in-law to be self-love, and Miss Pleder appeared to be admirably adapted to her situation, as she scrupled not to administer tolerably large doses of flattery:

completely illiterate, she had still every requisite for a sycophant, and a sufficient share of low cunning to secure the favour of her patroness. My father was from home, and during our stay the conversation was solely on dress. "La! *Miss*," said the companion, addressing herself to me, "don't you think Mrs. Scott would look beautiful with a diamond aigrette on one side her beautiful dark hair?" I returned an answer as little calculated to offend as possible; but fearful of more questions equally puzzling, I made a sign to Caroline to shorten our visit, which she readily understood, being as weary of this entertaining jargon as myself.

On describing the young lady, we found with Mrs. Scott, to Lady Bute, she expressed her surprise that my father should allow her to keep such an associate. "Rest assured, my dear Madam," said Caroline, "it is not as he pleases; I perceive he has given up the reins to one who will drive Jehu! is it not so Janetta?" "Indeed, I fear it is, but I wonder she did not show us Dewar's pre-

sent, he certainly sent it." "How can you be so unreasonable as to expect she would think of any thing except the decoration of her own beautiful person for the drawing-room." Doctor Blair and his brother were announced, we informed them whence we were just returned: the Doctor inquired if Mrs. Scott desired me to be introduced with her; I smiled, and replied, "No, nor do I wish for such an honour, believe me." "But I think it very proper that it should be so, and am much surprised your father does not require it." "I imagine," said Lady Caroline, "she will take Miss Pleder with her, her negro-girl, to bear her train, and deary to present her: it will be a most noble introduction!" "It will be highly ridiculous of Mr. Scott if he does not have his daughter to accompany her, and I am truly sorry for Janetta's sake that he appears to have chosen a wife not likely to add to her happiness." I was anxious that a subject so displeasing should be dismissed, and as the day was beautifully fine, and Lady Bute was engaged to the Duchess of Athol's, pro-

posed that we should ride on horseback to Camberwell, and take our dinner there. Caroline and Blair acceded, and our horses were ordered, with a hunter of Lord Bute's for Blair.

We found my aunt alone, she received us with her usual cordiality, and begged we would stay the day, as my uncle would not return to dinner. Poor little Ann was extremely ill, unable to leave her bed, which had been removed from the nursery to her mother's dressing-room. I went to her and found her very weak, but delighted to see me; her mother and Lady Caroline soon joined us. Her ladyship had been entertaining my aunt with an account of our visit to Mrs. Scott; she was quite surprised to hear of the companion, of whom she knew nothing. She told me she had lately heard from my aunt Walter, who very much lamented my father's conduct, and that she desired her to tell Lady Caroline and me she should soon expect us in Bedfordshire; and hoped when I next wrote, I should be able

to fix the time. She attributed my father's not having visited them to his compliance with his lady's inclinations: "I fear," added my aunt Robert, "she will not incline him to any thing that is good." We were prevented replying by a summons to attend my father, who was below; the fine day had tempted him to take a ride, he had heard of our call in Marlborough street, was sorry he was from home, and complimented Lady Caroline on her good looks. He staid to dine with us, but did not appear so cheerful as he used to be, and conversed very little. He asked Blair if it was his intention to go out to India again; and being answered in the affirmative, he, with an oath, called him a great fool, since he had not been better rewarded. Blair replied, he must trust to future good fortune for promotion, but that in obeying his country's call he not only followed his duty but his inclination. This was his constant sentiment, and though the idea of his quitting England was a sorrowful one to me, I admired him the more for his resolution. Immediately after dinner

my father pleaded an engagement, and left us. We passed the remainder of the afternoon in the most friendly conversation, and arrived in Pall-Mall before the return of Lady Bute.

Caroline observed that she had never met with any person who improved more on acquaintance than Mrs. Robert Scott; she was really a most agreeable woman. Blair said, "Janetta will find more friendship in her aunts, than ever she will in her mother-in-law I fear; I sincerely wish she may not prove an enemy." "Surely, should she never be my friend, she will have no pretence to be my enemy, though I confess there is 'envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness,' written on her face." Lady Bute at this instant returned, and supper was immediately served, after which Blair took his leave, and we retired to rest. On the important morning which was to present my new mamma to his Majesty, Lady Bute told us it was her intention to go to the drawing-room, at which we greatly

rejoiced, as she would inform us of all the particulars we wished to know. As soon as we had breakfasted, Dewar made his appearance; he told us all the arrangements were made for the presentation, but he could not positively learn who was to accompany the lady besides her sposa; she had actually proposed taking her companion which my father positively refused, saying it would be a great impropriety; "I was present at this discussion," said James, "she said she must have some female companion, that she knew, or she should be very uncomfortable. 'You know Lady Toriano, I will ask her to go with us,' whether her ladyship has consented or not I cannot tell you." "Depend on it," said Caroline, "this was his business at Camberwell the other day, and the reason he quitted us so early. Lady Toriano is a very humane woman, and I dare say would take pity on them." "I do not know her ladyship," said James, "but if she had three grains of sense, I am sure she would tell him that Janetta was the most proper companion for his

wife on the occasion." "I am much displeased at this affair throughout," said Lady Bute, "but they will meet with a retaliation they do not expect." "Indeed, my dear Madam, had my attendance been required I should have felt infinitely more mortification than I do at present." Her ladyship now retired to dress, and Dewar went into the city, promising, however, to return and hear Lady Bute's account of the presentation. Caroline and I went to give orders to our maid, to prepare our dresses for the evening, when we were going to the concert in Soho, where the royal family were expected.

On descending to the parlour, we found Doctor Blair and his brother, His Royal Highness the Duke of York had sent tickets for the acceptance of Lady Bute, Lady Caroline, and myself: and the Doctor gave one to Blair, hoping the ladies would accept his escort. Lady Bute now made her appearance in full dress for St. James's, and having desired Blair to stay and take care

of her girls until she returned, she and the Doctor departed. Dewar very soon rejoined us, bringing with him some beautiful presents for us, among the rest an elegant Chinese dressing-box for Lady Bute, and one for Caroline.

Her ladyship returned from court only just in time to dress for dinner; she insisted on Dewar's remaining, though he had an engagement for the evening which prevented his accompanying us to the concert. When the desert was set on the table, and the servants had left the room, her ladyship said, "I suppose you are all very anxious to know who was at court this morning; to begin then with Mrs. Scott, led in by Sir Harry Pawlet; and Lady Toriano by Mr. Scott; the first lady's dress was a very handsome brocade-tissue, ornamented with silver spangles and tassels; a small fly-cap with vandyke blond lace lappets, and ruffles to correspond; pearl necklace; diamond aigrette and ear-rings; she seemed greatly confused on her entrance." "Well she might," ex-

claimed Dewar. "But, Janetta, I must tell you how smart papa was; a light coloured cut velvet coat, lined with white satin; white satin waistcoat, embroidered with gold; diamond knee and shoe buckles; gold garters, a solitaire, lace ruffles, a handsome sword, and very beautiful knot to the same. I understand they both intend to be at the concert to-night." Dewar laughed heartily at what he called the old beau's finery! I called him to order, but on this subject he was incorrigible; "If I were but sure that Madam would go to the concert in her *royalty* robes to-night, I would break through my engagement, put on my jacket and trowsers, and go myself, sit down next her, and call her aunt!" "And thus run the risk of offending the whole company to gratify a silly whim?" said I. "O, no! I wish not to displease any one, only just to plague her a little; I spoke without consideration, my dear cousin, as you know I often do."

The gentlemen left us soon after dinner, Dewar to his appointment, and Blair to dress

for the concert; I desired him to be quite the soldier, to which he bowed consent. Lady Bute, though extremely fond of music, with all that kindness minds like her's alone are capable of, determined to give up the pleasure of the concert to spend the evening with my dear Mrs. Stukely, judging the occurrence of the morning would amuse her, and divert her mind from the contemplation of a far more distressful subject. After she left us we went to the library, where I read to Caroline from Thomson's Seasons, until time to attend the duties of the toilet; Blair rejoined us as we were taking coffee, according to orders quite a-la-militaire. We found a large company assembled in the concert-room, and shortly after our entrance the Princess Dowager, the Princess Augusta, the Prince of Wales, and Duke of York made their appearance. The performance immediately began with a solo on the German flute by a girl of twelve years of age; she performed to admiration, the Princess Dowager was quite charmed with her, and complimented

Mr. Oswald, who was her instructor; he informed her Royal Highness he had a still greater prodigy to produce, a boy of six years of age, who performed a solo on the violoncello with exquisite taste and judgment; the instrument was made purposely for him, but was remarkably fine toned. The Princess Dowager caressed the child in raptures, and took him and the girl to the side-board to give them refreshment. The Duke soon joined us, and welcomed us in a very complimentary manner, which was his usual strain; whilst he continued talking to us, I accidentally turned my head, and perceived Mrs. Scott leering at me from the corner of her eye, and saw her touch my father's elbow in a most significant manner; at that moment I happened to drop my fan, it was the one Dewar had given me; the Duke took it up, but as it was remarkably beautiful, opened, and admired, before he returned it to me; trifling as this action was, it was observed, and with many others not more important, brought against me to support a charge, as base and malicious as it

was false. Tenducci and Signora Frasi coming forward to sing, the Duke left us, telling Blair, "The roses he had selected did honour to his taste." Lord Bute took the seat his Royal Highness quitted, and after asking for his lady, told me he was greatly surprised not to see me at St. James's in the morning; he thought my father's conduct towards me very reproachable, but added, "Depend upon it, Janetta, we will retaliate this affair upon Mrs. Scott." I expressed my thanks to his lordship for the interest he felt for me, but assured him I had passed a happier morning in Pall-Mall than I should have done at court.

During the evening, we received the compliments of many of the nobility. Before the royal family quitted the room, the Duke came to take leave of us, and hoped we had been well entertained; to this it was scarcely possible to return any other than a satisfactory answer. As he left us, my father and his dulcinea came up, they inquired after Lady Caroline's health, and then Mrs.

Scott saluted me with, "And, pray, how do you do, *Miss?*" "Very well, Madam, I am obliged to you, I hope you are so." "No, indeed, I am not, for music always makes me *molloncolly!*" Blair perceiving that Caroline and I could scarcely repress our risibility, instantly told us our carriage waited, and leaving her to the enjoyment of her 'molloncolly' fit, we entered it, freely giving way to the laughter it was no longer necessary to restrain.

Lady Bute told us she had left Mrs. Stukely completely indignant at the slight I had received. I told her ladyship she had suffered a great loss in not having been at the concert, as the performance was excellent. "Pray, Janetta, do not regret my mother's absence, you do not know that the music would not have made her '*molloncolly*,' as it did poor Mrs. Scott." Lady Bute inquired her meaning, and she then told her how much we had been amused. "Surely," said she, "she must have had a very inferior education: I wonder if she can read?"

"I should think not, Madam," answered I, "judging from the manner in which she looks from the corner of her eye, I suppose her sight to be too imperfect." "Janetta, I entreat you to leave her alone; let us not disturb her, nor she us," said Blair, and he entered into conversation with Lady Bute, about the wonderful young performers in Soho. It was seldom that we had the happiness of Lord Bute's company at supper, but this evening he agreeably surprised us by returning before his usual hour, and as Doctor Blair soon after joined us, our pleasure was complete; for no party afforded us a satisfaction equal to that we experienced in this small domestic circle. I believe the happiness of all present was increased when his lordship said, "Well, Blair, you must attend the next levee, with thanks to his Majesty for having graciously conferred on you the rank of Captain, 'through the interest of the Princess Dowager of Wales.'" Caroline instantly began to sing, 'Then I'll be the Captain's Lady O! Farewell to my friends and my daddy O!' &c. before we

had any of us time to congratulate the Captain on his promotion; he seemed far less elated on the occasion than any of his friends: indeed, I felt astonished at the apparent indifference with which he heard of it.

It was very late before our friends left us, and yet Caroline was so sensible of the interest I felt in Blair's promotion, that she did not retire to her own room until she had had a tête-à-tête with me. "Well, my dear Janetta, do you think Blair will now be more explicit with you?" "I really am not aware of his intentions, but as the regiment is expected to go to India, and he does not intend to exchange, I should think not." "Then he will behave very strangely, for his constant attention gives every one reason to believe he is attached to you." After many fruitless conjectures of what would, and would not be, she left me; and the next morning, as we found Lady Bute alone in the breakfast-parlour, she renewed the conversation; "You have not yet given him time, Caroline, even to make a deter-

mination." "Dear mamma, has he not dangled after her for several years, and never been known to pay attention to any other? I really think not only his determination, but his declaration ought to have been made long since; and if he does not immediately make her an offer, I shall advise her when the fit does take him, to give him a refusal, and take the first opportunity of accepting the hand of another, purposely to mortify him." Lady Bute smiled, and said, "I have not a doubt but he will act with honour and propriety; and as I am going into Grosvenor-square, shall leave you to discuss the matter as you please." We determined to spend the morning at home, and accordingly went to the library to amuse ourselves with Sir Charles Grandison; but were soon interrupted by the Captain, and afterwards joined by the two Shriers. We told them they had quite deserted us, and perceived a material alteration in the youngest, who though perfectly recovered, and very cheerful, was looking extremely thin. George said, his brother he

feared would materially injure his health by his application to study; he was paying great attention to the oriental languages, of which he wished to be perfect master. I said we must sometimes call him from his studies to attend on us, and not allow him to lead such a sedentary life. "I wish indeed," cried George, "you would take him under your management, Miss Scott, for I acknowledge he is past mine." "I assure you," said Caroline, "he cannot be under better jurisdiction, conquer she will, I know by experience; but now let me tell you, that as we intend to stay at home all day, I shall expect you will all consent to remain with us, and we will spend it in music and dancing." They agreed to stay with us, and she immediately sent a servant for Shriers' violin and flute. "I saw you laugh, Janetta, when I talked of dancing, but if the Misses Elliot will come, and bring their brother William, and we could find Dewar, we should make up four couple, and still leave out a musician; so tell me where this cousin of yours is most likely to be found." "He will cer-

tainly be at Camberwell about dinner-time, and if you send him a note will doubtless come on the receipt of it; for he is one of the best tempered beings in the world. She immediately seated herself at the writing-table, and as she finished her note, said, "I have not told him our business, therefore if he obeys my summons, you cannot say he did it for the sake of music and a dance!" The groom was immediately dispatched to Camberwell, with orders to leave a note for the Misses Elliot in his way.

When Lady Bute returned, she added to our good spirits by bringing a very favourable account of dear Mrs. Stukely. Caroline told her ladyship of the scheme in agitation for the evening's entertainment, when the indulgent mother said, she was always happy when her dear child's health and spirits permitted her to enjoy such amusements. The Misses Elliot and their brother accepted the invitation, and begged permission to bring Mr. William Erskine in their train; who, as he was an excellent dancer, we con-

sidered an agreeable addition to our party. Dewar was expected at Camberwell to dinner, and the note was to be given him as soon as he arrived. Having heard these messages, Caroline and I retired to dress, leaving Lady Bute with the gentlemen; when we rejoined them, we found Dewar, who had left his dinner at Camberwell to know what important intelligence we had to communicate. "Only a little frolic of mine, in which I require your assistance," said Caroline. The party being assembled, we adjourned to the ball-room, and our little concert commenced; in our musical parties we ever regretted the absence of my dear Somerset, as he was so excellent a vocal performer; and I now particularly regretted him, Blair being no singer, and Dewar a very indifferent one. Miss Elliot said Shrier had an excellent voice, and as my cousin took his flute, he complied with the united request of the party, and not only surprised but delighted us; his voice was very powerful, and he modulated it with the greatest taste. I was asked to join him in

the duet of 'Contented all day;' many other songs were sung, and some fine pieces performed by William Shrier on the violin. We then prepared for dancing, Blair proposed the choice of partners should be decided by drawing the ladies' fans; a scheme which Caroline said was excellent, as it would prevent duelling; we then presented him our fans, which he handed to the gentlemen. Dewar begged Lady Caroline would claim the one he presented, which she did; Shrier drew Miss Elliot's, Mr. Erskine her sister's, and the Captain came to return mine. Lady Bute begged that the ball might be opened with a minuet; the Misses Elliot declined, and as Dewar loved not the sober step, the Captain handed out Lady Caroline, and never was minuet more gracefully danced. Her ladyship then desired me to follow her example, which done, we began country dances. Lady Bute took William Elliot by the hand, and went down two or three dances with him, he was a beautiful boy, twelve years of age. Blair told me her ladyship had been informing him that she and

Mrs. Stukely had concerted the speedy execution of a scheme, what he knew not, proposed by Lord Bute, to retaliate upon Mrs. Scott the mortification all my friends (more than myself) had felt on my account. We continued dancing with the greatest cheerfulness for a few hours, and then partook of a cold collation, after which a few songs were sung, and our party left us.

Caroline said how much we were indebted to Miss Elliot for the discovery she had made of Shrier's singing; and observed that she was highly delighted when we sung the duet, and had never heard my voice with so much pleasure in her life. "I was then obliged to my Damon for his assistance, and now to my dear Caroline's partiality for her praise." "Not merely to that, Janetta," said Lady Bute, "I was both pleased and astonished; and Blair said you never sung so well in your life, and wished himself your Damon." "Then he must have had Shrier's voice, since that animated me to exert mine." Our fatigue made us late risers the

next morning, and we found Lady Bute waiting breakfast for us; during the meal, she told us the scheme she had hinted to Captain Blair, was to present Lady Caroline and myself to his Majesty on the following day; "Mrs. Stukely," added she, "is quite delighted with the idea, hoping it may recal your father to a sense of his duty towards you. She has made you a present of a pink and silver tissue, and will supply you with what diamonds you may want, she will send them this morning, and when we return from court we are to call upon her before we undress." I was not without my share of vanity, and yet the latter part of this intelligence gave me infinitely more pleasure than the idea of the ceremony of the ensuing day; I felt all the kindness of the friends who led me into it, and yet it was a point beyond my ambition, though certainly from the rank in which I had always moved, not more than I might expect. My kind considerate Mrs. Stukely sent Errington with all she judged necessary on the occasion, accompanied by Garland, the most fashion-

able dress-maker of the day, to take my orders. I did not wish for a profusion of diamonds, indeed in my own opinion, thanks to my mamma's former presents, I had sufficient. I soon dismissed Errington, desiring her to send Agnes to me early in the morning. Lord Eglinton called on me, and said it was his intention to present me the next day if I would allow him, as Lady Caroline would be conducted by Lord Bute. I felt highly honoured by this kindness, and thanked him accordingly. Caroline and I were reading a book which particularly interested us, and betook ourselves to the library to finish it; but scarcely were we seated when Blair entered. He had been at the levee to return thanks to his Majesty for his preferment, and was in full regimentals. "Bless me! who have we here?" "An acquaintance of mine," said Caroline, "give me leave to introduce him; this is the renowned hero, Captain Blair, Miss Scott!" "Indeed! I really thought it was some native of Ireland, by the ease with which he entered the room unbidden, and unannounced!"

he smiling, begged pardon for his unwelcome intrusion, and conducted us both to Lady Bute, whom we found engaged with the gentlemen, our guests of the preceding evening, who had called to inquire after our health: she told them they were but loungers, and unless they could plead a better engagement they must all spend the day with us. Her ladyship's commands were irresistible, and a better engagement could not exist. Cards were introduced in the evening, but soon dismissed for our more favourite amusement of music. The Captain requested Shrier and I to indulge him with his favourite duet, with which we readily complied; Caroline then sung her usual song of 'Though Chloe's out of fashion, &c.' and called on George Shrier for the Tempest; my partiality to my dear adopted brother gave his singing the preference, though all but myself, confessed that Shrier equalled him.

The next day, important as it appeared, was far less so to me in itself than in its consequences; since it fixed the jealous envy

my mother-in-law always showed towards me, into a determined hatred, and a resolution to deprive me of the little portion of affection my father bestowed on me. My dear Mrs. Stukely sent Agnes to me before I arose, and ever thoughtful and indulgent towards me, recollecting that I had not a diamond girdle-buckle or bracelets, she sent me hers. Agnes was an excellent tire-woman, and before breakfast had completed the head-dresses of both Lady Caroline and myself. Lady Bute complimented us on our appearance, and as soon as we had finished our meal, the important decoration of our persons was completed. As fine as May-day queens, we descended to the drawing-room, expecting to find Lady Bute there, but in her stead we saw Captain Blair; as we had not acquainted him with our design, he gave a start of surprise on our entrance. "Bless me," said Caroline, "has any thing frightened you?" "No, only the brilliancy of the objects before me dazzled my eyes." "That is very strange, since you have frequently beheld the same objects without the same ef-

fect." "A wedding, I presume, ladies?" "Yes!" answered Caroline, "at St. James's." Lady Bute entering, explained the matter, and he was delighted with the plan altogether: Lord Eglinton was soon announced, and Lady Mary Stewart's chair being ordered for me, we were conveyed to court.

After our introduction to his Majesty, we were joined by many of the nobility of our acquaintance, amongst the rest the Duchess of Athol, Sir Piercy and Lady Brett, General Sinclair, his lady, and Captain Drummond. The Duke of York advanced to us, all life and gaiety; he complimented Lady Caroline on her appearance of health. "I thank your Highness—" "No," interrupted he, taking my hand and leading me towards her, "Pay your thanks here, where they are due; you know when you are ill, Miss Scott is sole directress;" he then paid me many compliments on the present occasion, and welcomed my appearance at court in the most flattering manner. Ah! how far more delightful and gratifying to my heart was the reception of my beloved Mrs. Stuke-

ly, as she folded me in her arms, with all the rapture of a mother who embraces a long absent child. The event of the morning was soon conveyed to Marlborough street, and from that time every invention envy and malice could suggest were put in practice to deprive me of those indulgences my father still allowed me, till at length his heart was completely steeled against the unfortunate Janetta.

About this time a young gentleman from St. Kitts, whose name was Fewiletto, arrived in England; he was deemed by every one a good sort of being, bore an excellent character, and possessed a very large fortune. He was intimate with my father and my uncle; and in my visits to them I frequently met him. Unhappily for me he became so strongly prepossessed in my favour, as to make me an offer of his hand; which in the most explicit manner I unhesitatingly refused, and begged that he would never more enter on the subject. I was too sincerely attached to Blair, to admit the idea of unit-

ing myself to another. Though he confessed his inability to marry me at present, since he could not maintain me as he wished, unless my father would give me a fortune, which he had declared he would not do; yet he had left me no room to doubt the sincerity of his affection, and on that score I rejected Mr. Fewiletto; who, however, applied to my father to use his interest with me, and for this purpose I was sent for into Marlborough street. Almost as soon as I entered the room where my father and Mrs. Scott were, the former desired, in no very gentle tone, to know my objection to Mr. Fewiletto. I answered I had no inclination to enter into such a serious engagement at so early an age. Madam observed it was never too soon to do well; that he required no fortune with me, and had offered to settle eight hundred a year on me, which was a great deal more than I had a right to expect. "I neither expect nor wish it, Madam." "Oh! dear, Miss, I suppose nothing less than a title will suit you." "My ambition does not aspire so high." My father d—d me for a fool, swore he would never consent for me

to marry any other man, and ordered me instantly to quit his sight. I immediately left the house and returned to Pall-Mall.

Lord Bute was sitting with his lady and Caroline when I entered the drawing-room; a flood of tears relieved my almost bursting heart; his lordship in the most affectionate manner inquired the cause of my distress, and with Lady Bute and Caroline used every effort to soothe the perturbation of my spirits. They promised me their continued friendship and protection, highly condemning the conduct of my parent. Lady Bute thought if Mrs. Scott could but get rid of me it was immaterial to whom I was consigned. "Pray, Janetta, compose your spirits," said Caroline, "they cannot marry you against your consent, and rest assured Fewiletto will find no admittance here. Madam Scott has a great treat in store this morning, for Captain I. Elliot (Lord Minto's son) has just left us, and being a dear lover of mischief, is gone to Marlborough street for the sole purpose of extolling you to your

sweet Mamma." Alas! all the intended kindnesses of my friends towards me, did but add fuel to the fire which burnt to destroy me. Dewar and Blair joined us, the former told us Mr. Fewiletto had been at Camberwell, with a most rueful countenance; had acquainted my aunt with all that had passed, and was quite in despair at my cruelty. She advised him as soon as possible to bestow his affections on a more grateful object. He added, "My uncle John I understand is highly incensed at your refusal either of the man, or the handsome settlement." "Madam, I suppose, thought it would bribe me as it did her, but, thank Heaven, I am not so mercenary a wretch as to barter my peace of mind for the sake of pin-money!" The approving smile of Blair repaid my sufferings, and I soon regained my tranquillity from the unremitting efforts of my friends to soothe and comfort me. Although my father's resentment towards me continued unabated, I was still permitted to enjoy uninterrupted the society of those most dear to me.

Deceitful calm! which only proved a forerunner of the storm that soon burst over me. At length the melancholy sentence passed on my dear, and ever lamented guardian, Admiral Byng, was executed. The public are too fully acquainted with his sad fate, to render a detail of so painful a subject necessary. The unfeeling heart cannot imagine the affliction I endured; and the compassionate can easier conceive than I could describe it. Let me then hasten to pass it over, only observing, that it was but a prelude to those woes which in rapid succession fell on my devoted head, and crushed me into nothing. The few friends admitted to Mrs. Stukely and Lady Masters, contrived for a length of time to conceal from them the death of their brother; and long after it had taken place they waited with patient resignation for the event of his trial.

A little after this period, His Royal Highness the Duke of York, whose health had long been in a precarious state, was advised by his physicians to try the milder air of

Italy. This was the opportunity seized on to complete my ruin; since it entered the imagination of Mrs. Scott, ever fertile in mischief, to persuade my father it was the Duke's intention to take me abroad with him in a dishonourable station; and that an improper attachment had long subsisted between us. This vile report she founded on his conduct towards me at the masquerade, and on the attention he always paid me when we met in public. Her art, the ascendancy she had gained over her husband, together with his want of natural affection for me, too readily gained his belief, or pretended belief of her assertions. To complete his cruelty, he not only gave implicit credit to her insinuations without deigning to investigate the truth, but refused to give ear to those vindications which all my friends readily offered in my favour. The highly respectable testimonies of Lord Bute's family, every individual of which could vouch that, however flattered my vanity might be by the attentions of the Prince, my interviews with him had always been in public,

or at least in the presence of some of my dearest friends, were set at nought; and on the representation of malicious envy, I was condemned to banishment from all my heart held dear.

It is impossible to describe my feelings on receiving a letter from my father, in which he told me he was now perfectly aware of the connexion which had induced me to refuse the advantageous offer of Mr. Fewiletto; as a parent he felt it his duty to prevent its continuance; and as he should no longer support me in the style he had hitherto done, I might bid adieu to the great world for ever, and content myself with the seclusion he had chosen for my future residence. He had appointed a person to call on me in a few days, who would conduct me to a stage-coach, which was to convey me to my destination! I was quite stupified with surprise and grief, when my uncle Robert came to me, he had been with my father and warmly expostulated with him on the cruel injustice of his conduct; but all in vain, he

only drew his resentment upon himself. He then said every thing which affectionate friendship could suggest, and bidding me hope for better times, took leave of me. Before my father's messenger arrived, I received an order from him forbidding me to correspond with any of my former acquaintances from the place of my retirement, upon pain of further punishment and disgrace! This was the very refinement of cruelty, for surely separating me from every friend I had in the world, might have been deemed a sufficient expiation, even had the charge alledged against me been true.

Too soon the sad moment arrived when I was to take leave of my beloved Lady Caroline and her excellent parents: scarcely could we articulate the last sad farewel, and the anguish of my feelings could only be surpassed by the severer conflict I endured at parting with my ever revered and adopted parent, Mrs. Stukely; we nearly fainted in each other's arms. Many years of sorrow have I passed since this melancholy epoch

of my life, but even now my heart experiences a pang of bitter misery at the retrospection. A feeling more desolate can scarcely be imagined than that which pervaded my senses, on finding myself (for the first time in my life) seated in a stage-coach; and as the noisy and uneasy vehicle rumbled over the stones of that metropolis which had been to me a scene of gay delight and fancied happiness, I sunk into a complete stupefaction of woe. From this I was painfully aroused by the distressing recollection, that Blair had not bade me adieu; that I had seen him, perhaps, for the last time, and had received from him no assurances of continued love. I was mentally accusing him of neglect and unkindness, when the driver of a post-chaise, which had just overtaken the coach, called to the coachman to stop, and to my surprise and joy I beheld the object, who at that moment engrossed my thoughts, seated in it. Most readily did I exchange my seat in the stage for that he now offered me; and under his protection I travelled as far as Bugden, the place where

the coach passengers were to remain all night. Blair was at that time in the thirty-ninth regiment of foot, commanded by General Addlecorn; he told me that on the following day he was to join his regiment, which was ordered to Ireland, and that I might safely correspond with him, which I promised to do, and charged him to tell Caroline I would break through all laws to write to her, and that she should hear from me as soon as I arrived at the place of my destination. My father's interdiction in this respect gave me little concern; his conduct had destroyed the fine feeling of duty which might once have induced me to obey his commands; and his threat of further punishment caused me no apprehension, since in my own estimation I had nothing more to lose.

Many were the protestations of affection and friendship I received from Captain Blair and I sincerely believe at that time he professed nothing he did not truly feel. After partaking with me of some refreshment at

the inn where I was to sleep, he took a most affectionate leave of me; this parting, it was evident, caused him a sorrow equal to my own, yet each for the sake of the other assumed all the fortitude we could command. Retired to bed, I gave a free vent to my feelings, and passed the night not in sleep but in tears; early in the morning I proceeded on my journey, in company with two men and two women passengers; I was too much engrossed by past events to notice them, or their conversation; I only knew that they accompanied me as far as Darlington, where I was met by a respectable looking man, who informed me I had still twelve miles to go, which part of my journey was to be performed on horseback, and he was to be my attendant: I begged to go immediately; but a new difficulty presented itself to me, when I saw but one horse to convey us both: I said I had never seen any body ride on a cushion behind the rider, and I did not know how they could keep on; but being assured it was a very safe mode of conveyance I mounted. Fa-

tigued and dispirited as I was, this most uneasy method of concluding my harassing journey was almost too much for me, and when I arrived at the farm-house, which I learnt was to be my future residence, I was completely exhausted.

I was here received by my new hostess (a widow) and her two daughters, with the utmost kindness and frank hospitality; I was truly rejoiced to find myself amongst people who appeared disposed to treat me with consideration; but I found it impossible to eat any of the nice dinner they had provided for me, and begged I might be conducted to my bed room, where I would lie down for a few hours, in hopes to recover from my extreme fatigue; Miss Johnson conducted me to my apartment; it was clean and neat, but oh! how far different from those I had been accustomed to occupy: here was no carpet, no toilet, none of the superfluities with which I had hitherto been indulged; a cold chill struck to my heart as I contrasted my former with my present situation; and

I hastily dismissed Miss Johnson, begging to be called at their usual tea-time.

I threw myself on the bed, and gave way to an agony of grief; but being completely subdued by the varying emotions I had so long endured, I soon lost all sense of misery in a heavy lethargic sleep. I was called as I had desired, and on entering the parlour, was addressed by a gentleman, with, "Welcome into Yorkshire, ma'am, I hope the situation I have provided for you will meet your approbation;" perceiving my surprise he added, "Mr. Palmer wrote to desire I would search for a pleasant retired place in my neighbourhood, by no means a market town, where a lady might board in a small family." At the name of Palmer how did my heart recoil; this man who had been a principal agent in the plot against me, was Mrs. Scott's chief favourite, and my father's solicitor. I quickly asked my new acquaintance if he was intimate with Palmer. No, he had never seen him; but he had a clerk whose father and mother lived in this neigh-

bourhood, and they had mentioned him as a likely person to find the situation required; he then told me his name was Watson, and that he was appointed my agent; I asked if the clerk's name was Farrar, and was answered in the affirmative.

During tea-time I had an opportunity of observing the family with whom I was to reside; and though far different to the polished society I had quitted, I found nothing unpleasing in their manners. The old lady was a well behaved hospitable being; I soon learned the farm she occupied was her own. The eldest daughter was very conversable, and appeared extremely superior to the generality of young women in her line of life; the youngest, though inferior to her sister in point of manners, was equally assiduous to please; and during my residence with them I had much reason to thank Mr. Watson for his choice of a situation for me. He told me if I wanted books in my solitude, he could procure me them, as there was an excellent library in the town where he lived,

and the post passed Mrs. Johnson's every day. I thanked him for his attention, and he took his leave. On the following day I walked about the garden, in hopes of finding a retired place where I might sometimes have a retreat, but here I was disappointed; it was very pleasant, and had a nice green mount, where I could have spent hours had it been less public; but it was completely exposed to the great north road, close to which the house stood; we were three miles from Richmond, but there was no habitation within a quarter of a mile of us. In a dreary and monotonous manner my time passed on, until I became quite unhappy at receiving no answer to the letter I had written Lady Caroline, since I was convinced indisposition alone caused her silence. At length I received a few lines from Lady Bute, which informed me that my beloved Caroline was seriously ill, and unable to write to me herself; but that should it please Heaven to restore her to health, as soon as she gained sufficient strength to undertake the journey, she should be conveyed to me,

and pass some months with me in my retirement. How did I pray for the accomplishment of this promise; which, unhoped for as it was, served to lessen the grief I felt at hearing of my friend's illness. The same post brought me a letter from Blair, telling me the regiment was ordered to the East Indies, and that it was his intention to accompany it; he concluded with much affection, and promised to write again before he embarked. This intelligence was a severe blow to me; for a while I looked upon him as lost to me for ever; but, naturally sanguine in my hopes and expectations, I soon admitted the idea of his return and our future happiness. By way of amusement, I had been working a pair of ruffles for him, one of which I inclosed in a letter to him immediately after the receipt of his, desiring him to write to me again as soon as possible; and promising to send the second ruffle very soon, which I did, and to the first letter I received an early answer, in which he told me he was going out with Governor Hastings, but not immediately,

and that I should hear from him again: he here abated nothing of those assurances of esteem I so often received from him. To Lady Bute's letter, I answered by writing to Lady Caroline as follows:

"Believe me, my dear Caroline, I received the account of your illness with the most heartfelt grief; but anticipate the liveliest joy from the re-establishment of your health, when I shall expect you to fulfil the kind unlooked-for promise of passing some time with me in my retirement. Your presence would make even this solitude pleasant to me; at least, here the busy malignant tongue of slander must be still, for I possess nothing likely to excite envy; nor can I here attract the attention wished for by another. In giving up an intercourse with the gay world, I must quit all thoughts of being admired, but hope to enjoy the more delightful satisfaction of being beloved.

"I trust my *dear mamma* has nothing to annoy her, now she is happily rid of me; if she

wished to deprive me of the advantages of fortune, I find I could have resigned them with tolerable composure; the attack upon my reputation is not to be so easily forgiven. I continually find myself repeating that frequently quoted passage of Shakspeare, 'He who steals my purse, &c.'

"I entreated Blair would call on you, and tell you all that passed between us on our journey, I have since heard from him that he is going again to India; I am grieved and disappointed at it, as well on my own account as his; I think him one of my steadiest friends, and believe he is as sincerely devoted to me as I have always been, and shall for ever remain, to him. Whether in this country or another I shall be tenderly attached to him, and my most fervent prayers for his health and happiness will ever attend him. I find the eldest daughter of the widow with whom I reside, a pleasant young woman, and better informed than is usual in her situation; all the time she can spare from her domestic employments, she devotes to me.

"The house is situated pleasantly enough on the great north road. I have a very nice horse to ride when I please; and could I enjoy the pleasure of your company, and be assured of the welfare of Blair, I sometimes think I could spend my time more satisfactorily here than I did amidst the silly frivolities and unmeaning compliments of those sycophants by whom I was surrounded in the gay metropolis. Make my most grateful acknowledgments to Lady Bute for her letter, and assure her and her dear lord that I retain a lively sense of the favours they have conferred upon me, and shall ever remain sincerely attached to them. With ardent wishes for your speedy recovery, and the most sanguine hope of shortly seeing you,

I remain, dearest Caroline,

yours, very affectionately,

Janetta Scott."

Having now dispatched my second ruffle to Blair, begging for an immediate acknowledgment of its arrival, I endeavoured to wait as patiently as possible the answers to

my letters. One of the few visitors at Mrs. Johnson's was a young man whose name was Norweb; his father was a respectable farmer, who resided at a little distance, and was a near relation to her. Norweb was regularly brought up to the watch-maker's business, and with fifteen hundred pounds, which his father gave him, had set up in London as a watch-maker and jeweller; here he soon became a bankrupt, considerably in debt.

During the arrangement of his affairs, he acted as a writer to Palmer the solicitor, and in this situation I saw him more than once at my father's, where he called on business, but knew nothing of him until I was in Yorkshire; a short time previous to my going there, he had engaged himself as schoolmaster in a village about four miles from his father's. He was rather pleasing in his person and manners, having had a tolerable education; his mind was certainly unpolished, but his natural understanding good, possessing much common sense. His visits

were more and more frequent, and his desire to ingratiate himself in my favour became evident; his attention and assiduity to please were unremitting.

Many weeks elapsing before I received any intelligence from London or Ireland, I became very unhappy; at length Norweb, who now always brought all letters for Mrs. Johnson from the post, presented one to me; it was from Miss Elliot, and sealed with black. I dreaded to open it; but oh! how was my poor heart rent with grief when I read its contents. My beloved Caroline, the friend of my earliest years, the dear companion of all my gay and happy hours, was no more! In her last moments she prayed for, and blessed, her dear Janetta. Alas! what a grievous affliction was her death to me! I was inconsolable, and a severe fit of illness was the consequence of my sorrow. It was thought requisite to call in medical aid, and after having been confined to my bed for some time, I began slowly to recover. It pleased God, with my returning health,

to grant me a greater degree of resignation to his will; and since I could not recal the dear departed saint, I taught myself to consider my grief as selfish, trusting she was partaking a more perfect happiness than any this world could have offered her.

How fast did my sorrows follow each other! and in this retrospection, how much cause do I see to be thankful to that merciful Being, who supported me under all my trials; and however violent my feelings of sorrow might be for a time, restored me to a tranquil state of mind, and endowed me with a natural cheerfulness of disposition which has enabled me thus far to tread the thorny path of life.

It may not be amiss here to observe, that in my education, like that I fear of the fashionable part of the community in the present day, true religion was but too little thought of: it is in the school of adversity I have learnt a humble confidence in the mercy of a Redeemer, and a blessed hope

of reward in another and a better world; well may I acknowledge then, "It is good for me to have been afflicted." The death of Lady Caroline was speedily followed by that of my beloved Mrs. Stukely; dreary indeed were now the feelings of my heart; I had lost the only being who ever acted towards me the part of a parent! and yet, when I was informed of the dreadful affliction under which she laboured previous to her death, I was divested of every selfish feeling, and thankful that she was spared a longer continuance of suffering. By slow degrees, and in the most feeling manner, her friends at length imparted to her the circumstance of her brother's dreadful fate; this melancholy termination to the long and painful suspense she had endured, had such an effect on her nerves, as entirely to deprive her of reason, and eventually of life.

Shortly after these sad events, I was honoured by a visit from my dear Lady Bute, she called on me in her way to the family seat in Scotland; our meeting, as may

be supposed, was a very affecting one; she informed me that Lord Bute and herself had used every means to bring about a reconcilitaion for me with my father, but in vain; Mrs. Scott's power was too absolute. I had now also to learn the afflicting intelligence of the death of my much loved friend and adopted brother, Captain Somerset. He was killed in an action near Gibraltar.

Thus was I deprived in quick succession of all those who would have protected and supported me in my deserted state! But youth, and my natural vivacity, carried me through all my sorrows. I had now no dependance, no hope of friendship, but from Blair, and he did not write to me! week after week passed on in anxious expectation, but still I did not hear from any of my friends; I had been a year in my seclusion, and became alarmed at Blair's conduct. After all his professions of affection and constancy, I felt myself forsaken by him, deserted where I had most depended; and in a fit of mingled revenge and despair, I ad-

mitted of the addresses of Norweb; and at length consented to accompany him into Scotland, where we were married. He was an only son, and in expectation of a good fortune at the death of his father, who at that time was considered in a very dangerous state, having had the misfortune to break his leg; so that though only a mechanic, he hoped to have it in his power to maintain me genteelly.

On our return from Scotland we went to Mrs. Johnson's, where we learnt that Norweb's father had died in our absence; but what was my husband's disappointment to find there was a will, in which he was cut off with a shilling, and all the property equally divided between his two sisters, who were both married to wealthy farmers. He made a claim upon the effects as heir at law, and pleaded his father's incapacity to make a will at the time; this plea however was not admitted; and the matter was at length referred to arbitration, each person chusing a friend to decide the point. It was then

proposed that Norweb should have a third, and as he had already had fifteen hundred pounds, it was more than he could expect: if he were discontented his sisters' husbands would contest the point at law; too poor to contend with them, he agreed to this arrangement. The news of my imprudent marriage was soon conveyed to my father, who immediately stopped the payment of my allowance, and gave up all connexion whatever with me. Norweb took lodgings for, and engaged a person to wait on, me in the village where he had his school, and with some regret I quitted Mrs. Johnson's, where I had received much kind attention, to enter on a new scene of life, for which I was most ill calculated. In this situation we had remained a year, when Farrar came down on a visit to his father; during his stay there Mr. Norweb had business at York, and in his absence Farrar called on me. He brought with him some writings relative to a small estate of some houses in Drury-Lane, which had been left me by an aunt, and of which I had hitherto received the interest. He told me my father thought it advise-

able to sell them, as he had been offered two thousand pounds for them, and the money might be placed in the funds for my use, as he was determined never to give me a shilling; and he desired I would sign a letter of attorney empowering him to sell. Totally ignorant of law affairs, I readily placed my name and seal to the paper, considering my father was now at least acting a parent's part, and endeavouring to secure a small resource for me in case the day of necessity should arrive. When Mr. Norweb returned from York, he was greatly displeased to hear of what I had done; Farrar had evidently taken advantage of his absence; but he had only obeyed the orders of his employer, Charlton Palmer, whom I ever considered my greatest enemy.

Norweb consulted Counsellor Stanhope on the business, who told him if I was not of age the deed would not stand good in law; but that if I was, the estate was irrecoverable. My birth was too much involved in mystery for me to swear to my age;

nor was it in the power of any one except my father to do it. I therefore relied on his honour, and for some time dropt all thoughts of the affair. Mr. Norweb now heard of a good situation for a watch-maker and silver-smith at Wetherby, and thither we removed; money was wanting to stock a shop, and to do this, and discharge a few remaining debts in the village we left, I parted with most of my jewels; this however cost me no regret, since I hoped our new situation would produce us additional comforts. We had very comfortable apartments over the shop, and here we lived for some years in perfect harmony. Norweb was naturally good-tempered, my disposition was quick and warm; but whenever any occurrence excited that warmth, he invariably took his hat and walked out, by which means we avoided all altercation. We had many pleasant neighbours at Wetherby, and I was but too fond of company, and a total stranger to economy; I knew not the use of money; unable to withhold from distress the relief in my power to bestow, I

freely imparted to the necessitous that assistance I never reflected on the probability of one day wanting for myself.

Mr. Norweb was a very good workman at his business, and very quick, and might have succeeded very well, had he paid that attention to it which was required; but alas! he was also an excellent marksman, and being often solicited to partake of the sport of shooting, to pursue this amusement of which he was extremely fond, he frequently neglected the more material concerns of his business, which in a few years began to decline. At Wetherby I first became a mother, and the care of my dear boy fully occupied my attention and time. When he was nearly a year old, I was one day leading him before the door, when I perceived a servant in livery standing in the gate-way of the opposite inn, looking at me with seeming surprise; at length he came over to me, his hat in his hand, and asked me if I did not recollect my uncle Walter's old servant, George? I thought I did. He

then asked me if I knew my father lived at York, and had a country seat at Little Askam, about twelve miles from Wetherby, where he and his lady now were. He had left Mr. Scott's family, and was going with a new master into Scotland. The man then respectfully bowed and left me. To hear that my father's residence was so near me excited some surprise, and no little emotion. I related the circumstance to my next door neighbour, who was an attorney's lady, with whom I was very intimate; and she strongly advised me to go and solicit my father to assist us with a small sum, which we then greatly stood in need of to carry on our trade, promising at the same time that her husband would lend us a horse. Norweb consented to the scheme, and having written a most supplicating note to my father entreating permission to see him, we set off. There was a small inn very near their house where we stopped, and leaving Mr. Norweb until my return, with a beating heart and unsteady pace I walked to the house: I gave my note to a footman, who carried it to his

master, and soon returned with this message, His mistress was sorry to inform me, I had better not venture into his master's presence, for he swore he would shoot me, and I might go to the devil! but when he was calmer, she would endeavour to do me what service she could; she had sent me a guinea to bear my expenses, and desired I would go away, as they expected a great deal of company. With trembling feet, and in the greatest agitation, I retraced my steps to the inn, and related the success of my application to my husband, who was so incensed at the threat against my life, it was with difficulty I could prevent him from going to call my father to account for it. I

I was so much hurt by my father's implacability that I was quite ill, and scarcely able to get home. I had never left my child before, and the pleasure of receiving his infantile caresses was an alleviation to my sorrow. From that time I never heard of my father except by accident; that after Farrar had obtained my consent to sell my estate,

he had caused a report of my death to be circulated, which of course prevented the inquiries of any of my other friends; and after the reception I had met with from him, Norweb never would permit me to apply to my uncles. Of Lady Masters, I only heard that she retired into the country after her sister's death. Two or three years now past on in tolerable comfort, when searching for a paper, wanted by my husband, a letter met my eye directed to me as Miss Scott, in the well known writing of Blair! Surprised beyond measure, I hastily opened it; but oh! what were my feelings, on beholding the date much later than that of any letter I had received from him; on reading the most affectionate and friendly language addressed to me, long after that period when I had condemned him for his cruel want of constancy! The fatal truth now flashed upon my senses! It may be remembered that Norweb always brought my letters from the post, and therefore had no difficulty to get possession of any he wished to keep; and this one he had secreted in order to

break off the connexion he wished to form for himself. That he should neglect to destroy it was as strange as unfortunate; for its discovery was the most bitter draught of my cup of misery. From that time, the only intelligence I ever heard of him, who once possessed my tenderest affections, was, that he was one of the witnesses on Governor Hastings' trial. The birth of a second boy, by increasing my family cares, served to erase from my mind the distressing circumstance of finding Blair's letter; and also to attach me more strongly to my husband, whose conduct to me was uniformly kind. Business had for a length of time been declining, but at length became so bad that Norweb was made a bankrupt; I pass over what were my feelings and anxieties at this misfortune, they are more easily imagined than described. From the time of my marriage my life became a dreary scene, experiencing only changes from bad to worse.

Having little to impart that can interest the reader whose patience has proceeded thus

ter, I now hasten to the conclusion of my little narrative. As soon as our affairs were arranged we removed to Selby, and again fixed in business, though the situation was far inferior to that at Wetherby; but having learnt a sorrowful experience, Norweb was much more attentive to his trade than formerly, and less anxious for the sports of the field. Our circumstances were now too bad to allow us to keep a servant, I was therefore fully occupied with my little family, and most awkward did I find myself in many of my new occupations; Norweb made an excellent footman, lighted my fire, and assisted me to the utmost of his abilities. He soon became in great repute for repairing and cleaning guns, and was employed by most sportsmen in the neighbourhood for that purpose; which in one instance had nearly proved fatal to me and my infant. He one day stuck the barrel of a gun which was very foul perpendicularly into the fire, supposing it to have been drawn; I was sitting very near, dressing my baby, when it suddenly went off with so great an explosion as to

alarm the neighbourhood; its contents went through the ceiling into the room above, and but for the providential circumstance of the fire's having given way and inclined the barrel to the opposite side, we in all probability might have been killed. At Selby our only acquaintances were the clergyman and his lady, they were advanced in years; the Doctor was our daily visitor, and being fond of a game at backgammon generally spent his evenings with us. He was a most sensible man and a sincere friend; many were the favours we received from him; among the rest, was the giving me many useful lectures on economy, which, young and thoughtless as I was, I still continued but too much to neglect. Notwithstanding Norweb's indefatigable attention to business, it did not succeed, and he was induced to give up the situation. Our good friend, the Doctor, advised him not to fix on his own account, but to engage with some one as a journeyman, where he would be sure of good wages and have no risk. In pursuance of this advice he applied for the first situation

of the kind he heard of, which was at Brigg in Lincolnshire. He was engaged, and immediately wrote to me, desiring I would dispose of all the furniture we could spare, and then join him with the children; my third boy was now half a year old. I accordingly agreed with the master of a small vessel to convey us to Barton upon Humber. On our arrival I sent for Norweb, who came on the receipt of my letter; he had taken a small house at Brigg, which was not quite finished; he therefore thought it adviseable for me to remain where I was until it was habitable. Being at a small inn I met with many disagreeables, but was treated with the kindest consideration by the people of the house. Our house being ready for our reception, Norweb fetched me and my little ones to Brigg, where I was welcomed with the greatest hospitality by the person for whom he worked.

In this situation he continued some years, to the satisfaction of his employer and his own credit. We had not been long in

Brigg before I was greatly noticed by the genteeler part of the inhabitants, and my company continually sought for by those whose situation at that time was far above my own. This was a temptation I had not sufficient resolution to withstand; ever fond of mirth and gaiety, I saw not the great impropriety of embracing every opportunity afforded me to enter into society so congenial to my disposition; and but too often neglected my family to accept the invitations of those whom my vivacity and my singing never failed to amuse. Mr. Norweb was much older than myself, and certainly had just cause to endeavour to restrain the follies of my youth; but he was too indulgent to reprove; ever pleased when I was so, he was completely blind to my foibles, and left me to pursue my own inclinations. Maturer age pointed out these errors in their proper light, and most industriously did I apply myself to assist in procuring a maintenance, when, alas! it was too late to retrieve the time I had lost. One lady in particular ho-

noured me with great partiality, and advised us once more to get established in business, at the same time promising to pay the rent of a house and shop then vacant, which she desired us to take, for the first year. We accordingly did so, but it pleased Heaven to take from us this worthy friend when we most needed her assistance. I was with her near her last moments, when she sent for her daughter into the room and begged that she would be a friend to me and assist our establishment in trade, which she solemnly promised to do, and performed by sending us ten pounds! This liberality did but little towards furnishing a silver-smith's shop; but notwithstanding our difficulties, we had business enough to support us in tolerable comfort, and in the most perfect tranquillity we lived twelve years.

In the course of conversation, I had mentioned to one of my friends the cruelty of my father in selling the small estate mentioned in a former part of my narrative. She was going to London, and kindly offer-

ed to make some inquiry, if I could inform her to whom she could apply. I thought it probable she might gain some information from one of my former tenants, a grocer. She made some purchases at his shop, and began the conversation by observing the great improvements in that part of the town; she then asked him to whom those houses belonged. He answered, the one he occupied was his own, he had bought it of Mr. Scott of Great Marlborough street, they had belonged to a daughter of his who was dead. That she told him was a mistake, as she had the pleasure of conversing with the lady but three days before. The man appeared greatly surprised, and to her further interrogations would only answer, that he bought his and paid for it. Though this was an unsuccessful attempt to serve me, I retain a grateful remembrance of it.

Having spent so many years in Brigg, I became attached to it, and would gladly have remained there, but my trials were not yet at an end. Mr. Norweb had given a

large order for goods, to be in readiness for an approaching fair at Brigg; but as they did not arrive long after he had received an invoice of them, he became very uneasy. Finding on inquiry that they had been sent by the Lincoln waggon, he went to Lincoln in pursuit of them, where he found the box and conveyed it home; but what was his consternation next morning on opening it, to discover that the bottom had been taken out, and replaced after the box had been rifled of all its contents, except a few trifles of no value! This blow caused our complete ruin, for as the tradesman could prove having sent them, we were liable to the whole loss, and my poor husband must have gone to prison had not some of our kind friends drawn up a petition stating the case to our creditors, who settled our affairs in a most friendly manner. Norweb was now again reduced to a journeyman, a friend recommended him to a person in Louth; and being engaged, I and my youngest son joined him there. With much regret I left Brigg, where I had enjoyed more comfort than in

any other place since my marriage, to reside in a town where I was an entire stranger. My husband's new employer proved himself a worthy master and a good friend; he served him four years, and then once more got into business for himself. I have hitherto omitted to mention the great distress and anxiety occasioned us by our children as they advanced in life, it is now necessary to give a brief account of them.

My eldest son, Thomas, was placed by his father at an early age with a clock and watch-maker at Market Harborough, with an intention of fixing him there as an apprentice; but he unfortunately disliked the business and would not stay. One of our kind friends in Brigg then procured him a good situation in London; but his disposition was of that unsteady nature, he was not to be fixed any where. He ran away from this place, and returned to Brigg, where, much against the consent of his father and myself, he engaged as a postillion at the Angel inn. Here, to our extreme

grief, he pursued a most dissolute life, in habits of intoxication, and associating with the lowest company, and in that situation we left him on our removal to Louth. Our second son, James, who was an apprentice to a silk-frame-worker at Nottingham, was, I thank Heaven, of quite a different disposition; sober and steady, he never mixed in low company, but applied himself to learn his business with the greatest attention; during his apprenticeship he was never any expense to us; in short, he was our only comfort. Soon after he had served his time, he married a very respectable and industrious young woman, who had been brought up to a branch of his own business. They continue to reside at Nottingham, and have a large family, to support which their exertions are very great.

George, the youngest of our children, remained with us and learned his father's business, which might have been very advantageous to him had he pursued it with attention; as in time Mr. Norweb establish-

ed a tolerably good business; but being far advanced in years, and anxious to remove Thomas from the situation he had chosen, he sent for him to learn the business, hoping he might reform, and together with his brother be an assistance to us in our age. But, alas! his bad habits were become too inveterate, he only contaminated George, and instead of making any proficiency in their business, they were continually mixing in low company, where they spent the hard earnings of their poor infirm father. The bitter affliction their conduct caused us can only be imagined by tender parents; let the fate of these unhappy young men be a warning to such, early to restrain the growing vices of their children! Infinitely less severe is the pain of correcting a child even in its earliest years, than the misery of beholding the man a prey to intemperance and vice! After a few years spent with us in this manner, Thomas engaged himself as a weekly servant in the town, continuing to lodge with us: in this service he received a kick from a horse, which, after lingering

three months, terminated in his death. I was his constant nurse, and had the satisfaction to know that through the assistance of many kind friends, he neither wanted medical aid nor any other comfort his deplorable situation required. Above all, I thank God, that he died a sincere penitent for his mispent life, at the age of thirty-six.

George hired himself as a substitute in the Lincoln militia; and, without consulting us, married a young woman very much against the consent of her friends. She was an amiable young person, and all the grief I felt on this occasion was on her account, since she deserved a much better partner.

Almost immediately after their marriage, the militia was called out, and she remained with her parents until her husband's return. We then thought of fixing them in a shop at Alford, and Mr. Norweb spared what goods he could to furnish it. Unfortunately at this time there was an election for a neighbouring borough, and instead of en-

deavouring to gain customers, poor George, hired a barn, tied a silk handkerchief to a pole put out at the door, and treated all the loose rabble to drink success to one of the candidates! Being informed of this by a kind neighbour, his father immediately went to Alford, where he found the little property he had entrusted him with in pawn for liquor; after much trouble and expense he once more got him to return to us.

At the time both our sons were with us, Mr. Norweb was in great repute for making clocks, and as they gave him so little assistance, he could not supply his customers fast enough without sending to Birmingham for many works, which ought to have been done at home; by which means he became greatly involved in debt, and his eye-sight failing, his business was at length so trifling, that when George returned from Alford he had not employment for him at home. He therefore engaged himself in a manufactory at Southwell in Nottinghamshire, where he received a guinea weekly. This continued

only a short time, the militia being called on to encamp near Dartford, where, however, the officers allowed him the indulgence of working in a manufactory at the same wages he received at Southwell. His wife continued at Louth, and for a time we heard nothing from him to distress us.

One day, my husband being at Brigg, I paid a visit to an old friend, who resided about two miles from the town; I passed the day with unusual cheerfulness; and, returning in the evening, called at my daughter's in my way home; I found her weeping in the greatest distress; but, ye that are mothers, judge of my feelings when I learnt the cause of her tears. George had deserted, and a party of soldiers were in pursuit of him!—For this sad blow I was wholly unprepared, and incapable of administering that comfort to his wretched wife, of which I so greatly stood in need myself, I hastened home. A few days before, the worthy lady of a clergyman had made me a present of Nelson's Devotions; and now op-

pressed by grief, and feeling that prayer and meditation were the only sources of real comfort, I opened the book, and happily met with a lesson on patience and resignation to the Divine will. Heaven mercifully enabled me to apply it to my own comfort, and I passed a tranquil night.

Early the next morning I wrote to Colonel Caldecot, entreating his mercy should the poor culprit be taken; and one of my kind friends wrote for the same purpose to her brother, who was a Major in the regiment. But he evaded their search and escaped to Leghorn, whence he wrote to us, saying he had met with employment, but had some thoughts of going to America. Alas! we never heard of him after. His wife proved herself a most affectionate creature to me in my distresses; she is indeed a worthy woman and deserving a better fate. These were heavy trials to my poor husband and me; but thus far have I dragged through life, supported by Hope, the never-failing friend of the wretched!

I now thought my sorrows nearly at an end, but I had still severer hardships to endure! poor Norweb became so infirm he could do very little work, and to assist in procuring our maintenance, I patched counterpanes and disposed of them by lottery. Many friends in Louth behaved with the greatest liberality towards us, and made a charitable assembly for us; but finding that we did not belong to the town, it was not in the power of the Warden to grant us a continuance of that indulgence.

My husband was at length reduced to such a state of debility that we were compelled to ask relief from the parish! in consequence of which, he was sworn to his settlement, and we were conveyed to Brigg. By a mistake of the attorney who made out the necessary writing, understanding from our having lived in Bigby street we belonged to that parish, we were refused admittance at Brigg, and taken to Bigby, a small village four miles from it. As this parochial business could not be settled until the next

Kirton sessions, a neat comfortable lodging was procured for us, where we remained some weeks, receiving the kindest attentions and favours from the clergyman and his lady.

With extreme regret did we receive the order for our removal: on our arrival at Brigg, Norweb was summoned before the magistrates to answer the necessary interrogatories; but his mental faculties were too much impaired to attend, and my presence was required. Alas! what were my feelings at that moment! I had never been before a magistrate in my life, and I shook with terror at the idea; the occasion too, brought in sad array before me a retrospect of my past life; how did my heart sink at the contrast! I was near fainting when I entered the room; one of the gentlemen from whose mother I had received many favours during my residence at Louth, recollected me, and kindly taking my hand, inquired after my health; reassured by this kindness, I gave them all the information they requir-

ed; and the affair being settled at the sessions, we were conducted to my present abode, the asylum of the parish poor!

Here was a completely new scene for me: immured amongst the most illiterate beings upon earth, some scarcely rational creatures; humbled as I had been by such a series of misfortunes, it was long before I could view my situation with tolerable composure. There remained but few of my former friends in Brigg, but it pleased Heaven to raise me up many others equally valuable; when I used to pass those habitations which had once been the scenes of mirth and gaiety to me, a bitter pang shot across my heart; but as all things become habitual I now behold them without any disagreeable sensation.

My poor husband's health became daily worse, and being quite childish, he occupied all my attention. The many years we had passed together, the misfortunes he had endured, and his uniform indulgence, had en-

deared him to me; so that what might once have been the result of duty only, now became that of inclination also. Contrary to the expectation of every one, he continued to exist in this state a year and a quarter, and died the 19th of January, 1809, leaving me to bewail the rugged path of life he trod.

In the following summer I paid a visit to my son James, but not having my health at Nottingham, I considered myself an incumbrance to them with their large family, and returned again to Brigg. Unlike many situations of the kind, this establishment is conducted by a person who has the most perfect regard to cleanliness and neatness; and though from my age I am a useless being to her, she allows me all the indulgence in her power.

I have now brought the history of my sad life to a close. The reader will I trust candidly consider my disadvantages, and pardon all my inaccuracies! Should my nar-

rative ever fall into the hands of the young woman of prosperous fortune, may she reflect on the reverses I have experienced, and be humbled! and may she, over whom lowers the cloud of adversity, observe that in all my trials I have been mercifully supported by that gracious Being, who never forsakes those that trust in Him!

In prosperity I was surrounded by flatterers, in adversity I have met with real friends. The grateful feelings of my heart prompt me to make public the names of many, but I know them too well to suppose this would be pleasant to them: and am moreover checked by the consideration, that it would be an insult to that charity which *vaunteth not.*

To enumerate the kindnesses I have received from my invaluable friends, both at Louth and Brigg, might fill a volume; to each, to all, I offer my most sincere acknowledgments; and may the All-wise Creator, in his bountiful goodness and mer-

cy, pour down his blessings upon all who have done me good, and pardon all who have done, or wished me evil!

To Him I pay my humble tribute of thanks, for the mercies he still vouchsafes me; imploring a continuance of his favours, particularly of the blessed Hope that through the merits of an all-atoning Saviour, I may in his own good time be removed from this scene of transitory sorrow, to a world of everlasting Life and Happiness.

FINIS.

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